THURSDAY
September 12, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
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Route map and
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NCPCR AFFIDAVIT

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Harris puts Trump on the defensive

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DATA POINT

India's strong strides at the Chess Olympiad

The team is second only to the U.S. in ELO rating

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RAJ KUMAR DAZZLES

India drubs Malaysia, climbs to the top

SPORT » PAGE 15

No extension of deadline for fixing HSRP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the September 15 deadline approaches, only 52 lakh vehicles in the State have the mandated High Security Registration Plates (HSRP), leaving 1.4 crore non-compliant. The Transport Department has confirmed that no further extensions will be granted.

Vehicles without HSRP after the deadline will be fined ₹500, with a special enforcement drive starting on September 16 across Bengaluru and other cities.

Despite deadline extensions, compliance remains low owing to challenges such as long waiting periods, delays in plate availability, and technical issues with online booking. HSRP plates are tamper-proof, featuring non-reusable locks and uniform designs, with a unique 10-digit number linked to vehicle data.

REPORT ON
» PAGE 3

Kolkata doctors set fresh conditions, continue stir

Protesters demand meeting in the presence of CM to be telecast live on news channels; State Health Minister questions if the doctors are being guided by politics, asks them to resume duty

Moyurie Som
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The impasse between protesting resident doctors and the West Bengal government over the resumption of duty in public medical institutions continued for the second day on Wednesday, with the former setting fresh conditions for holding talks. They included the demand that no fewer than 30 representatives be allowed at the State Secretariat for a meeting to be held in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and televised live on news channels.

Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said the government was disheartened with the response of the junior doctors setting conditions for talks, which did not result in a discussion with an open mind.

Firm stance: Junior doctors on the second day of a sit-in at Swasthya Bhawan in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

West Bengal Minister of State for Health Chandrima Bhattacharya asked if the doctors were guided by politics, and wondered if they wanted justice for the rape and murder of the resident doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Responding to the Minister's charge, a representative of the West Bengal Junior Doctor's Front (WBJDF), Kinjal Nanda, said, "There is no political colour in this demand. An open mind is a subjective choice. We believe our demands are conducive to an open and productive discussion. Our demands are clear."

Chief Secretary's email

The conditions were set in response to an email by Mr. Pant on Wednesday, urging the doctors to resume duty immediately in adherence to a Supreme Court appeal to them to return to work by 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

"It is important to take a serious note that the common people have been deprived of your vital services... It is expected that good sense will prevail and you will resume duties immediately in compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Drugs body recalls nod for eye drops over 'false' claims

Zubeda Hamid
C. Maya
CHENNAI/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The pharma firm had claimed it would help people with presbyopia do away with reading glasses

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has suspended permission given to the Mumbai-based ENTOD Pharmaceuticals to manufacture and market an eye drops which it said can help those with presbyopia do without reading glasses.

In a notification on Tuesday, the CDSCO said permission was suspended as the company's claim was likely to mislead the public, and had violated provisions of the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019. The permission given on August 6 was "for the treatment of presbyopia in adults", and it said no other claims may be made without approval.

In a statement on Wednesday, the firm said it would challenge the suspension in court. Its chief executive officer, Nikkhil K. Masurkar, said the company had not made any unethical or false presentation of facts with regard to PresVu Eye Drops. He said media reports on the product launch went viral and "public imagination led to an unusual escalation for which ENTOD Pharmaceuticals is not responsible".

He said the Drugs Controller-General of India approval was based on a valid controlled clinical trial in 234 patients.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

NEARBY

I will continue as CM, says Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday asserted that there should be no doubt over his continuation in the post. This comes as the Congress is grappling with ambitious talks over the post by nearly half a dozen Ministers. » PAGE 4

E-khatha must for properties from tomorrow

BENGALURU
To curb property transactions in unauthorised layouts and protect buyers' interests, the mandatory need of e-khatha for property registration in BDA limits will take effect from Friday. » PAGE 2

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INNOCEAN–031/24

I believe 'together we are stronger than we are alone'

I am quite good at team building. Every season I want the same — I want us to be very happy and to become a family for these 25 days. Some human beings take things more seriously, some are a little bit lighter, so I want to have a balance

FOCUS SPORTS/UTT

INTERVIEW

ELENA TIMINA

Amol Karhadkar

She is up there – in terms of age, experience and wisdom – of all the coaches that were involved in the Ultimate Table Tennis' (UTT's) 2024 edition. Born in the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1969, Elena Timina, a defensive player turned aggressive coach, has represented USSR and Netherlands - her home for well over a decade - and has been coaching various teams for a long time.

Having been involved in each of UTT's five editions so far, Timina revealed her magic mantra for being a successful coach. Moreover, she served a word of caution to India's women's table tennis fraternity and also had a word of advice for maintaining the recent surge in performances in the international arena. Excerpts:

It's been five seasons of Ultimate Table Tennis. How have you seen the league evolve?

The biggest difference is the level of Indian players. They have taken significant steps in the development of this league in five - actually more years because of course COVID was in between - so it was like seven years, I think, since the league started. In the first season in 2017, most of the Indian players were like underdogs. Now, they are sometimes more dangerous than international players and the results of Indian table tennis internationally speaks for itself. It's just very big steps.

From a coach's perspective, what is it that you plan and achieve in the three weeks you spend with the team?

OK, this is easy for me because I know exactly what I want. Every season I want the same. I want the team and me and the management to really enjoy ourselves and as a team. At the time of the annual player draft, I always pay attention to the character of players, not only the level of their skills. The characters have to fit together. Some human beings take things more seriously, some are a little bit lighter, so I want to have a balance in the team just for this purpose. I want us to be very happy and to become a family for these 25 days. Yes, it's disappointing to lose in the semifinals but our team had already reached the happiness goal even before we topped the league stage. We really had a fantastic time. We were a small family.

Obviously the second goal was to get as far as possible. I think reaching the semifinal this year was much more difficult than to do it in all other seasons just because there were more teams.

You mentioned the quality of Indian table tennis. Are you surprised with the recent trend of India's women paddlers overshadowing men in the international arena?

No, I am totally not surprised because the best Indian players - like Manika (Batra) and Sreeja (Akula) - have produced the best results. These players have mastered the specialised material (the long-pimpled rubbers primarily on their backhand and the art of twiddling it), so this is quite clear. They have exploited the advantage to perfection.

If I were responsible for Indian table tennis, the only thing I would worry about is the excessive usage of the rubber. If you see all the girls are playing table tennis in India - professional, semi-professional or little young players - maybe 80% are learning only this style of the game. In my experience, table tennis is very adaptive, so sooner or later, I will give it another 8-10 years maybe - everybody will be able to play against this difficult material and that is the danger.

If I were responsible for Indian table tennis, I would keep such players - the ones with slightly odd rubbers - but restrict them to maybe around 30 per cent and start to develop other underdeveloped areas of techniques or skills or footwork to start with. If both the faces are developed , it will be a much better scenario. It's not about talent, I think the Indians are, in general, extremely talented. I understand the current trend of quick way to success and its concurrence. It is important to get good results quicker. But in long-term thinking, I think it's dangerous.

In that respect, what do you tell someone like Taneesha Kotecha - the junior-most player in Bengaluru Smashers who is trying to break the ceiling with the conventional style of playing with plain rubbers?

Just keep going on and keep working hard. Taneesha told me that her dream is to become the first Indian player 'without material' to break into the top-50 in the world. I can only say I totally support her and I hope she will manage to do that. I think it's a very brave idea, but on the other hand, nothing is impossible. Many things look impossible till they are achieved for the first time and as soon as they are done, it looks like routine. I wish Taneesha and other girls like this the best.

You guided Goa Challengers to the 2023 title and you managed to get the Smashers - a new group of players - to top the group this time around. What is the secret of your success?

I have a lot of questions for myself as a coach. Really. I know there are many things that other coaches are doing better, but I am quite good at team building. I have always done it. I think I would be good at it not only in sports but even if I work in the business world, I would still be able to be a good team leader. Maybe because I am coming out of the Soviet Union environment, you know, where I was brought up with the idea that together we are stronger than we are alone. It is – in many cases - actually true.

As for this season, I think we were playing just too good in the league stage. The credit should go to the players and each member of the squad.

Do you think it's time that possibly the UTT should think of letting the teams have the option of retaining coaches for the next season?

Retaining coaches! Yeah, that's interesting. I have heard that there are thoughts about this. If you are lucky with a coach, with a good coach, you can keep him for a longer time, and then you are used to him and you know how he works. So there are advantages.

On the other hand, what if of the eight teams, six are happy with their coaches and they are going to retain their coaches and the other two are not happy and they have to be stuck with the same coaches they have? So there are ways to think it over and there is time also.

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No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/04/2024-25/868 Date: 11.09.2024

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[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri P.R.Suresh S/o Ramaswamy has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture" Zone to "Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No:103/2extent of 00Acre-28Guntas (Including 00Acre-05Guntas 'A' Kharab) of B.M.Kaval Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the layout in the above said lands, the poor and middle class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
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4) By planned layout the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good Roads, parks, etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.

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ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಪುರ/ಜಿಎ/1933/2024–25

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on behalf of our client that, we are investigating the title of land and building bearing Municipal No. 27/1 and 27/2, (PID Nos. 78-121-27/1 and 78-121-27/2) situated at Sankey Road, Bangalore, measuring 2343 square meters, presently within BBMP limits and bounded on the East by: site bearing No. 11/27; West by: Sankey Road; North by: Abshot layout; South by: site bearing No. 27/C **("Schedule Property").**

Any person/s or entity(ies) having or claiming any form of right, title, claim, benefit, lien, demand or interest in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, by way of under or in the nature of any sale, transfer, exchange, assignment, agreement, contract, sale, outgoings, floor space index, development potential, development rights, Will, release, relinquishment, decree or order of any Court of Law, encumbrance, mortgage (equitable or otherwise), lease, lien, charge, maintenance, license, gift, inheritance, succession, hypothecation, undivided share, possession, easement, trust, bequest, sub-lease, under-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, easement, options, right of first refusal or right of first offer or pre-emption or encumbrance of whatsoever nature, covenant or condition, partnership, trust, family arrangement / settlement, or other disposition, or under any lis pendens, injunction, attachment, decree or order or award passed by any Court of Law or Tribunal or revenue or statutory authority or arbitration, or otherwise howsoever, or under any agreement, deed, document or power of attorney or any objection/s of any manner whatsoever is hereby required to inform of the same in writing with notarized/certified true copies of documentary proof in support thereof, to the undersigned at their under mentioned address within 10 (ten) days from the date of this Notice, failing which it will be presumed that the title of the Schedule Property is clear, valid and marketable and no one has any rights/ title/ interest/ claim/ demand whatsoever on it. Any claims without supporting documents shall not be entertained.

Please mark your envelope with the superscription.

Adv. Abhilash Pillai, Partner,
Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas,
Advocates and Solicitors,
Prestige Falcon Tower, 3rd Floor,
Brunton Road, Off M. G. Road,
Bangalore 560 025, Karnataka, India
Tel. No.: 080 67922000

Date: 11.09. 2024.
Place: Bangalore,

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-07/TS/2024-25 Date: 09.09.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION No.07/2024-25
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender is invited on behalf of the Governor of the State of Karnataka for the following works approved under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - Grey Water Management Unit Works under the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Act and Rules 2000 through e-procurment for the following works approved in the Department of Public Works. Tenders are invited from Suppliers (ZP Bangalore Rural MGNREGA Material Supply Enrolled) to Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Bangalore Rural. Application for e-tender documents is requested to be submitted through Departmental website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Last Date for Submission of completed tenders for the said works: **26.09.2024 up to 5.00 PM.** For further information this office can be contacted during office hours. And the tender details are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/1953/SPAN/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
Mahadevapura Zone, Vengaiah Eco Park,
T C Palya Road, K R Pura Office, Bengaluru-36

No: SADH/ MDP/TENDER-04/2024-25 Dated: 11.09.2024

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) **(STD KW-1, 2, 3 & 4)**

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Mahadevapura Zone), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Beautification, Landscape Development of LG Lake Dew Layout Kalkere Park in Ward No-88 and Near Indira Canteen, Vijinapura Park in Ward No-89, K R Pura Constituency. **Amount: ₹.15000000/- EMD: ₹.225000/-**
2.	Beautification, Landscape Development of Karthik Nagara LRDE Layout Park in Ward No-101 and Kaveri Nagara Park in Ward No-100, Mahadevapura Constituency. **Amount: ₹.15000000/- EMD: ₹.225000/-**

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Notification is **11.09.2024. (2)** Tender can be downloaded from **17.09.2024. (3)** Pre bid meeting on **20.09.2024 (4)** Tender Closing date **23.09.2024 (5)** Technical bid opening date is **24.09.2024 (6)** Financially Bid Opening Date After approval of Technical bid.

Sd/-
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture- Mahadevapura Zone

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/Klb/Div/TS-3, 1 & 6/TN/2024-25/2868 Dated: 09.09.2024

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender of (KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4) works under 2059, 3054 Maintenance and 8443 Endowement Total (04) works of Indent No- 12668, 15508, **Reserved for SC:** 14799, 12571 in KPPP portal. 2) Amount Put to tender: **Min Rs. 37.99 Lakhs, Max Rs. 128.50 Lakhs,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: PWD, Civil Contractor License Class-IV & III above, 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per KPPP portal EMD Min Rs. 4,800.00 and Max Rs. 200000.00, 5) Pre Bid Meeting: **13/09/2024 upto 11.00 Hrs**, 6) Last date for queries: **17/09/2024 upto 17.30 Hrs.** 7) Last date for submission of tender: **19/09/2024 upto 16.00 Hrs**, 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid: **20/09/2024 at 16:30 Hrs**, 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid: **21/09/2024 at 16:30 Hrs**, 10) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, 12) Bidders Should Note That : **Note:** 1) Undersigned reserves the right to Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process, Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Rejection of tender will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/422/KSMC&A/2024-25

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL : UMERKOTE
E-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No : 02/UKT-MUN/2024-25

Letter No. 2332 Date: 06/09/2024

Name of the work for which e-Tender invited - Supply of labour, Vehicles, machineries & equipments for Sanitation Works including collection of solid waste from Door to Door, Road sweeping, Night Sweeping, Drain Cleaning, Bush Cutting, Bed level de-silting & Water Logging from Ward No.**1 to 14** of Umerkote Municipality area for the F.Y. 2024-25.

1. Estimated cost of work (Annually) - **Rs. 2,69,68,860/-**
2. Eligible Intending Registered & Financially Sound Manpower Service Provider Agency / Firms / Trust / N.G.O.s having similar nature of work experience of at least Five years and fulfilling the other criteria as given in the D.T.C.N.
3. The Bid documents will he available in the web-site i.e **http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in** from **11.00 A.M of 10.09.2024 to 5.00 P.M of 19.09.2024** for online bidding.
4. Bid identification **No.02/UKT-MUN/2024-25**.
5. Last date & time of receipt of Bid through online: **19.09.2024 of 5.00 P.M**
6. Deposit original financial documents online : **from 10.09.2024 to 19.09.2024 up to 5.00 P.M**
7. Opening of Bid on **20.09.2024 at 11:00 Hrs** at Umerkote Municipality.
8. The bidder has to participate in online bidding only.
9. For further detail information any one can visit the-procurement portal of the Govt. of Odisha i.e. **http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in** .

Executive Officer, Umerkote Municipality

C-571: OIPR-13180/11/0003/2425

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-20/421/2024-25 Date: 11.09.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Reconditioning and maintenance of street lights at Hassan Growth Center, sublayouts, B.Kathihalli, Holenarasipura, Thimmanahalli, Textile & Pharma SEZ Industrial Areas of Hassan District and Amble Industrial Area of Chikkamagaluru District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **26.09.2024** upto **4.30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1945/Zen/2024-25

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005. Phone No.044-29862018, 28511972
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING

1	Description	Sale of dimensional black and colour granite blocks from certain quarries of TAMIN, Tamil Nadu
2	Tender No. & Date Tender IDs	**400/EX-1/2024, Dated.11.09.2024** 1. 2024_TNMIN_478832_1 2. 2024_TNMIN_478858_1 3. 2024_TNMIN_478879_1 4. 2024_TNMIN_478890_1
3	Bid submission end date	**26.09.2024 up to 1600 hrs.**
4	Technical bid opening date	**27.09.2024 at 1400 hrs.**
5	Tender form fee & EMD	Rs.2000/- (Rupees two thousand only) or equivalent USD.25 (Non-refundable) Rs.5,90,000/- (Rupees five lakh ninety thousand only) or equivalent USD.7200 per quarry

Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal: **https://tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/3660/TENDER/2024 **GENERAL MANAGER (Finance)**

Ministry of Communication, Department of Posts, Civil Wing
PRESS NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER

Executive Engineer (C), Postal Civil Division, ,Bengaluru invites on behalf of The President of India, online percentage rate (CPWD-7) e-tenders for the following work:

N.I.T. No.:12/PCD/BGL/2024-25

Name of Work Civil maintenance and repairs works Katipalla PO under Mangalore Division, Provision of RCC sump, scooter shed, GI profile sheet covering to Terrace Conversion of SPM Quarters to office space.

Estimated Cost: **Rs.38,06,422/-**
Earnest Money: **Rs.76,128/-**
Period of completion: **4 (Four) months.**

Last time and date of submission of bid : **Upto 15.00 Hrs. of 18.09.2024.**

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the **website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

--sd-- Executive Engineer(C)
Postal Civil Division Bengaluru- 560032.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYAT, HASSAN
DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE, HASSAN
Phone No.08172-246832 Fax No.08172-246575

TENDER NOTIFICATION

As per Tender Specification Karnataka e-Procurement 1)TENDER Tender reference No. HDH/EST(6)/Outsource/55/2023-24, Dated:10-09-2024. 2)Last Date for Submission of Tender through e-procurement Date:11-09-2024 to 10-10-2024 on 05.00 PM 3)Last Date for Sumited Quires by Person Date: 18-09-2024 on 05.00 P.M 4)Pre Bid Meeting: Date:25-09-2024 on 03:00 P.M 4)Technical Tender Documents opening Date & Time14-10-2024 on 11.00AM 5)Original Documents verification Date & Time 16-10-2024 on 11:00 A.M 6)Financial bid opening date and time 21-10-2024 on 11.00 AM or further extended date 7)Total tender amount: Rs.99.00 (lakhs) per month Rs.1188.00 (lakhs) per year 8)Total E.M.D amount: Rs.15,00,000/-(15.00 lakhs) 9)If any details for contact: District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Hassan Phone: 08172-246832 Email-dhohassan@gmail.com For More Details https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in The Tender accepting authority reserves the right to accept / reject /cancel the tender without assigning any reasons there off. The Details in this regard may be obtained from the office of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Hassan. We publish any amendments regarding this tender only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Hassan

ಜಾಸಾಆರೋಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/434/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2024–25

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE OF STATIONERY AND PRINTING
110, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.

Cte. No. Q3/22241/2024 **E- TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 10.09.2024

1) For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited only through online from manufacturer and authorized dealers/ distributors for the supply of the Programme Cutting Machine (as per Technical Specification) required for the use of Government Branch Press, Trichy of this Department by the General Manager of Stationery and Printing, 110, Anna Salai, Chennai-2.

2) The crucial date and time are given below:

S. No.	Description of the item	Qty (In No.)	Branch	E tender closing date
1.	Programme Cutting Machine	01	Government Branch Press, Trichy	14.10.2024 11.00 A.M

3) Tenders should be furnished in the prescribed format only, which can be downloaded from the **https://tntenders.gov.in.**

DIPR/ 3667 /TENDER/2024 **GENERAL MANAGER**

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Mysuru Division: Mysuru

NO: KST/EEM/JE/252/2024-25 Date:10.09.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION :04/2024-25
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Item wise tenders are invited for the notification no 04 work mentioned below as per karnataka transperency in Public Procurement at KTTP Ordinance at 1999, and Rules 2000 from the appropriate class of Civil Contractors in KPWD and CPWD as mentioned below through E-procurement. The contractors/firms will have to upload all required information, documents and rates etc., in the website only ie., **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** No documents will be accepted manually.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. Lakhs)	E.M.D. (Rs.)
1	Construction of Bus Station at Basaralu (Mandya Tq. Mandya District) (3rd Call)	126.26	2,00,000/-

1) Last date for Receipt of tenders: **30.09.2024. 2)** Interested Bidders can login to the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov** in for details on or after **13.09.2024. 3)** Any other information required can be had from the Office of The Executive Engineer, KSRTC, Nelson Mandella Road, Bannimantapa, Mysuru during working hours, Tel. Phone No:0821- 2498828

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KSRTC CE Division, Mysuru.

DIPR/CP/JA/1929/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
Assistant Conservator of Forests, Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri.

No:ACF.Channagiri :Tender.C.R-02/2024-25 Date: 05-09-2024

Tender Notice (Through e-procurement portal)

Tenders are invited through the portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the construction of elephant proof trenches in Channagiri Zones under Bhadravati Forest Division during the year 2024-25 by qualified contractors and scheduled up to 4.00 pm on 20-09-2024. For further information this office can be contacted during office hours. And the details about the tender can be obtained through the official website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in .

Estimated amount of work:- Rs100.50674 lakhs

Works details : Works related to construction of Elephant proof ditch

*) Last date for submission of tender : 20-09-2024

*)Opening of Technical bids: 21-09-2024 @ 17.00 pm

*)Opening of Financial bids: 23-09-2024 @ 17.00 pm

Sd/- (Ms. Ratnaprabha T.A) Assistant Conservator of Forests, Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25/53/09/654

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender / EMD
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(N)/ACE(N)-I/DCE(M)-II/TA(N)/3475/2024-25	**Date: 04.09.2024**
1.	Work of providing and laying of 300mm dia MS water supply line in Tannery road (Right side) from Doddi circle to Nagarawara Railway track coming under Pillanna Garden -2 service station of AEE(C)-1-2 Sub-division, BWSSB. **(2nd Call).**	Rs. 271.79 Lakhs / Rs. 4.08 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(N)/ACE(N)-I/DCE(M)-II/TA(N)/3476/2024-25	**Date: 04.09.2024**
2.	Work of providing and laying of 100mm(One side), 200mm dia(One side) DI pipe line and 300mm dia MS water supply line (Only Crossing) in Nethaji road from Kemp road to MM road junction and 100mm, 150mm dia DI pipeline in Mosque road from Coles road to MM road and 100mm (Both side), 150mm dia (One Side) DI pipe line in MM road from Pulakeshinagar Police station to Ganapathi temple MM road, coming under Frazer Town Service Station of AEE(C)-1-2 Sub-Division BWSSB. **(2nd Call).**	Rs. 293.68 Lakhs / Rs. 4.41 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(N)/ACE(N)-I/DCE(M)-II/TA(N)/3477/2024-25	**Date: 04.09.2024**
3.	Work of providing and laying of 100mm, 200mm dia DI pipeline in Hennur 80feet main road from Bangalore East Railway station Pottery Road to 6th cross Hutchin's road and 100mm, 200mm dia DI pipeline in Lazer road from Hennur Main Road to Pottery road (Both Side) and 450mm dia MS water supply line in Tannery road from Doddi circle to near Sagaypuram Foot ball ground coming under Pillanna Garden -2 service station of AEE(C)-1-2 sub division BWSSB. **(2nd Call).**	Rs. 374.92 Lakhs / Rs. 5.62 Lakhs

For above works, the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: **12.09.2024 upto 16:00Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **27.09.2024 after 16:00Hrs**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(North).

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/3774/2024-25	**Date: 10.09.2024**
4.	Work of providing and laying various dia DI water line from 2nd cross to 12th cross, Magadi Road coming under Magadi Road - 2 Service station of AEE(W)-1Sub division.	Rs. 264.27 Lakhs / Rs.3.97 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/3775/2024-25	**Date: 10.09.2024**
5.	Work of providing, laying and linking of 300mm dia water supply pipe line with fixing of 300mm dia valves at Krishna garder main BEML stage to BGS hospital road, JSS College to Kodipalya main road under Ideal Homes Service station of AEE(W2)-1Sub division.	Rs. 304.17 Lakhs / Rs. 4.57 Lakhs

For above works, the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: **26.09.2024 upto 16:00Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **27.09.2024 after 17:00Hrs**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(West).

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/3796/2024-25	**Date: 11.09.2024**
6.	Work of providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 class sewer line for at Sangolli Rayanna Circle to Railway under pass, K.H. Road, Ananda Rao Circle to Old JDS office, S.Gopal Gowda Circle to K.R. Circle, Dharmarayaswamy Temple road from LIC building to SJP Road, LIC Building to Dasappa Hospital, Unity building to Ravindra Kalakshetra and Kilari road coming under AEE(SW-1) Sub-division.	Rs. 210.91 Lakhs / Rs. 3.16 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/3798/2024-25	**Date: 11.09.2024**
7.	Work of providing and laying of (A) 100mm dia DI line in white topping road at Uttarahalli Main road from Indian Petrol Bunk to Shani Mahathma Temple (Both LHS & RHS) coming under PP Layout service station. (B) Providing and laying of 100mm & 150mm dia DI line in white topping road at 9th main road from 13th cross road to Subramanyapura main road(Both LHS & RHS) coming under BSK service station of AEE(SW-5) Sub-division.	Rs. 263.84 Lakhs / Rs. 3.95 Lakhs

For above works, the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: **26.09.2024 upto 15:00Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **30.09.2024 after 16:00Hrs**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(South).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/1951/2024-25

Decision on SA-1 paper distribution causes confusion among teachers

They say there is neither an examination schedule nor a formal order regarding the distribution of question papers

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Starting this academic year, the State government has decided to distribute the question papers for the midterm examination (Summative Assessment-1) for class 10 students following the State board curriculum through the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB).

However, the lack of a specific examination schedule or formal order regarding the distribution of question papers from either the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) or the KSEAB has caused confusion among teachers about how to conduct the exams.

Following DSEL's instructions, Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) in many districts have begun preparations for the SA-1 exams scheduled to begin on September 19. In some districts, the exams are scheduled for September 23 or 24.

DDPIs are taking steps to prepare the question papers at the district level and send them to the headmasters of the respective schools. However, most schools are still awaiting an official government order regarding the provision of question papers from the KSEAB and a confirmed examination schedule.

DDPIs in many districts have begun preparations for the Summative Assessment-1 scheduled to begin on September 19. FILE PHOTO

The core issue

Previously, SA-1 exams were conducted at the school level, with teachers preparing and distributing the question papers themselves. However, after several reform measures, including webcasting, resulted in a significant drop in class 10 results for the 2023-24 academic year, the government decided to issue question papers through KSEAB.

KSEAB will send them in PDF format to the login IDs of Block Education Officers (BEOs) on the day of the exam. The BEOs will then forward the papers to the headmasters, who will print or photocopy them for distribution to students. Additionally, the exams are to be conducted under webcasting supervision in schools equipped with the necessary technology, such as computers and webcams.

Based on a webinar held on August 31, DDPIs were instructed by DSEL officials to conduct the SA-1 exams at the district level. Consequently, DDPIs in Kalaburagi and Raichur districts announced that exams will begin on September 19, with question papers prepared and distributed by their offices.

Meanwhile, other districts, including Bengaluru and Mysuru, have scheduled their exams for September 23, but there is still uncertainty regarding the distribution of question papers.

"Following the DDPI's directive, we have started preparations to conduct the SA-1 exams for classes 8, 9, and 10 from September 19. Initially, we were informed that the question papers would be distributed from the DDPI office, but now there is confusion due to the department's announcement that KSEAB will issue the papers. No official order or examination schedule has been received from either the department or KSEAB," said the headmaster of a Government High School in Raichur district.

Separate examination

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Minorities has issued a schedule for conducting the SA-1 exams from September 23 in residential schools following the State curriculum and Moulana Azad Model Schools under its jurisdiction. The Directorate also clarified that the question papers would be prepared and distributed by its education section's resource team.

"Due to a lack of coordination between DSEL, KSEAB, and other departments, teachers are struggling to conduct the SA-1 exams. The Directorate of Minorities said it would provide question papers to schools under its jurisdiction, but KSEAB has also announced that it will issue question papers to class 10 students. Without an official order or specific schedule, we are unsure whether to follow our department's schedule or that of DSEL. The situation remains unclear," said the headmaster of Moulana Azad Model School, Bengaluru.

When contacted by *The Hindu*, Gopalakrishna H.N., Director of KSEAB, stated, "The SA-1 exams will start on September 24 as per the guidelines issued by the department, and the Board will prepare and send the question papers for class 10 students. I am not aware of the different schedules issued for conducting the SA-1 exams in various districts. The Board will issue a comprehensive schedule soon."

E-khata mandatory for properties in BDA limits

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This is to curb property transactions in unauthorised layouts and protect buyers' interests

To curb property transactions in unauthorised layouts and protect buyers' interests, the mandatory requirement of an e-khata for property registration within the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) jurisdiction will take effect starting Friday.

Revenue Department sources said the BDA e-khata, with an asset identification number, will be required for all transactions on the Kaveri-2 software of the Department of Stamps and Registration.

"The seller must obtain the e-khata to complete the transaction and register the property in the buyer's name. This will ensure the buyer's interests are protected, and instances of fraud will be significantly reduced, as the e-khata will verify the authenticity of the documents," a source explained.

The e-khata will be mandatory for both BDA-developed properties and private layouts approved by the BDA within its jurisdiction.

"Developers involved in new projects or layout formations will now be compelled to comply with the legal requirements established by the BDA to secure plan approval and, subsequently, the e-khata. Unauthorised layouts will face difficulties, as transactions and registrations will be impossible without the e-khata."

While the e-khata has been made mandatory for property registration under the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department's jurisdiction and for agricultural land registration under the Bhoomi system, it is now being extended to BDA limits. In the future, this requirement will also apply to properties under the BBMP.

Currently, properties in about 45 wards have e-khatas, and once the process is completed across all wards, the e-khata mandate will be extended to BBMP properties as well.

Kidwai institute of oncology gets new administrator

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Naveen Bhat Y., State Mission Director, National Health Mission, took charge on Wednesday

The State government has appointed Naveen Bhat Y., State Mission Director, National Health Mission, as the administrator of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology. Dr. Bhat assumed charge on Wednesday.

According to a Government Order issued in this regard, the appointment is for a period of six months or till further orders. The appointment is based on a report by a three-member committee headed by Arundathi Chandrashekar, Commissioner of Treasuries that probed allegations of irregularities at the institute.

Complaints

The committee was set up after the Chief Minister's Office received several complaints regarding the lack of transparency in the procurement of medicines and medical equipment by the then director.

The Hindu had reported the allegations against the then director for issuing a pre-dated work order for the development, operation, maintenance, and management of the Positron Emission Tomography and Computed Tomography (PET-CT) equipment under a public-private partnership (PPP).

The committee that submitted its report to the government on November 16, 2023, pointed out gross irregularities in the functioning of the institute. Overall, the committee had pointed out the deterioration of administration and violation of rules in all purchases. It was recommended that a person with administrative skills should be appointed as the director of Kidwai or an IAS official should be appointed as an administrator to monitor the institute's functioning.

Shunted out

In February this year, the government, based on the committee's report, had shunted out its director V. Lokesh. It had appointed Syed Altaf, professor and head of the Department of Surgical Oncology at Kidwai as in-charge director. Subsequently, the government had appointed IAS official N. Manjushree as the administrator for a period of six months. Now, she has been replaced by Dr. Bhat.

Approaches court

Meanwhile, Dr. Lokesh had approached the court challenging his removal and suspension. Recently, the court upheld his suspension and the government is yet to appoint a new director to the institute.

City school teacher gets national award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Narasimha Murthy H.K., Information and Communication Technology Department Head at Daffodils English School, Sanjaynagar, has been conferred with the National Teachers' Award 2024.

Mr. Murthy received the award from President Droupadi Murmu on September 5 in New Delhi.

Visitor trying to smuggle MDMA into prison caught

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Personnel from the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force on Monday apprehended a 30-year-old visitor who was trying to smuggle MDMA crystals to an undertrial prisoner in the central prison here. This incident is likely the first recorded case of synthetic drugs being smuggled into the high-security prison.

The accused, Shabbir Shariff from K.G. Halli, had obtained a visitor's pass to meet his contact, 30-year-old Syed Suhail. He was intercepted at the main gate during a routine check. Upon inspection, security personnel noticed that the pair of slippers Shabbir was carrying appeared uneven. Suspicious, they cut open the slippers and discovered 23 grams of MDMA crystals concealed inside.

Shabbir was detained along with the seized contraband and handed over to the Prison Department for further investigation.

BBMP places flowerpots in sewage-filled drain before K-100 project is complete

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The project involves beautification of a storm-water drain

Even before the completion of the ambitious K-100 project, which involves the beautification of a storm-water drain, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has placed flowerpots inside the drain filled with sewage.

The K-100, conceptualised in 2020, aims to beautify a 9.2-km stretch of storm-water drain between K.R. Market and Bellandur. The BBMP says it has almost completed the project.

A few days back, the BBMP placed circular flowerpots inside a drain located in front of the Shantinagar bus stand. The stretch is filled with water and sewage despite a treatment plant being set up.

According to a source close to the consultant of the project, architect Naresh Narasimhan, a sewage treatment plant that has the capacity to treat several litres of sewage was established. But in reality, sewage is flowing continuously into the drain, emanating a foul smell. According to Amaresh S., an activist who has been monitoring the project, nearly ₹ the government released 150 crore despite only 40% of the work being completed. According to the minutes of the meeting, the project should be supervised by a former judge and this has not happened, alleged Mr. Amaresh.

Circular flowerpots placed by the BBMP inside the drain, located in front of Shantinagar bus stand. The stretch of the drain is filled with water mixed with sewage despite a treatment plant being set up. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He said placing flowerpots shows the desperation of the civic body and the people involved in the project to show that it is successful. "What is unfortunate is that the BBMP was not even able to clean the stretch where the pots were placed," he said.

Mr. Amaresh said the BBMP so far completed only about 4 km of work properly but is claiming that it has completed 90%.

Naresh Narasimhan, the consultant of the project, when asked about the flowerpots, said it is a 'very sensitive issue' and he cannot comment on the same.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said he would find out what has happened in connection to K-100.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANTHONY Kapil Kumar, aged 41 years, S/D/O Late T S Hemanth Kumar, R/a No.604, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, Near Banaswadi Police Station, HRBR Layout II Stage, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Divya Roy vide affidavit dt. 10/09/2024 before Notary S.I.Balaguru, Bangalore.

I, NAWAL Kishore residence at A1004, Ramky one North, Avalahalli, doddabalapur Main road, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064 have changed my son name from Mehul to Mehul Kishore vide affidavit dtd. 09-09-2024 certificate No:IN-KA09798394077382W before Notary S R RaviKumar, Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

In The court of The IVth Addl. Dist. Judge: Kurnool (A.P).
I.A. NO. 562/23 in MVOP 730/17
CHALLA PADMAVATHI ... Petitioner
- V/s-
SATISH KUMAR
and others ....Respondents
Notice to Respondent R2
Santhosh Kalluru, S/o. Subash, Major, Hindu, driver R/o. Ibrahim Nagar, Bijapur, Karnataka State.
Where The petitioner filed The above Petition to add the L.Rs for R3 who is died in the above MVOP you the Respondent No.2 in I.A is here by directed to appear before the court on 18/09/24 at 10.30 am and file your objections if any. Otherwise you will deemed to set Expartee.
By order of the court.
PALURU RAVI GUVERA
Advocate for petitioner
Kurnool .(Dist.) (A.P) Cell: 9848237735

In The court of The IVth Addl. Dist. Judge: Kurnool (A.P).
I.A. NO. 561/23 in MVOP 730/17
CHALLA PADMAVATHI ... Petitioner
- V/s-
SANTHOSH KALLURU
and 2 others ....Respondents
Notice to Respondent No. 2
Santhosh Kalluru, S/o. Subash, Major Hindu, driver R/o. Ibrahim Nagar, Bijapur, Karnataka State.
Where The petitioner filed The above Petition to set aside the abetment of L.Rs Petition order dated on 10-02.2021 against Respondent No.3
Santhosh Kalluru in the above MVOP you respondent No.2 in the I.A. you here by directed to appear before the court on 18/09/24 at 10.30 am and file your objections if any. Otherwise you will deemed set Expartee.
By order of the court.
PALURU RAVI GUVERA
Advocate for petitioner
Kurnool .(Dist.) (A.P) Cell: 9848237735

Four tax officials held for kidnapping, extorting ₹1.5 cr. from businessman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a joint operation, officials from the Central Crime Branch, in collaboration with the East Division police, arrested four tax officials on charges of kidnapping and extortion.

They are Superintendent of Central Tax, South Commissionerate Abhishek; two senior intelligence officers, GST intelligence unit, Manoj Saini and Nagesh Babu; and intelligence officer Sonali Sahay. They raided the house of Keshav Tak, the owner of an IT solutions company in J.B. Nagar, on August 30 and accused him of money laundering and financial fraud. The officials detained Keshav and seized his mobile phone before taking him and three of his friends to an office in J.B. Nagar, where they allegedly assaulted them and confined them in separate rooms for several hours.

Later that evening, the accused took Keshav in an SUV, drove around the city, and allegedly demanded ₹3 crore to drop the charges against him. The officials allegedly forced Keshav to call a friend to arrange the money. Since it was a substantial amount and difficult to arrange on short notice, the amount was negotiated down to ₹1.5 crore. The accused released one of the hostages, Mukesh Jain, in the middle of the night to procure the money, while the other three remained captive.

In the early hours of September 1, after collecting the cash, the accused coerced the victims into signing documents and left behind paperwork purportedly prepared during a spot inspection.

Shocked by the incident, Keshav discussed it with his friends and relatives before filing a complaint with the police. Based on the complaint, the police reconstructed the sequence of events using various sources and verified the incident with the Director General of GST Intelligence, Bengaluru Zonal Unit (Central GST).

The investigation revealed that the accused, who held senior positions, conducted the raid illegally without obtaining the necessary authorisation. The officials also seized valuables from the victim and held the hostages for two days to extort the ransom, according to a police officer.

On Tuesday, the police arrested the accused and recovered the valuables that were seized under the pretext of an inquiry and search. The accused are now in custody as the police investigate whether they were involved in similar crimes previously.

The Managing Director on behalf of
TAMILNADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED,
E-TENDER NOTICE NO: 3301-B/Engg/2024 Date: 10.09.2024
Notice inviting Bids for the work as detailed in table below in "TWO BID SYSTEM"

S. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)
1	Upgradation of Pitchavaram as a Major Tourist Destination, including various facilities at Cuddalore District.	Rs. 10,14,000/- (Rupees Ten lakhs Fourteen Thousand only)
2	Date & Time for getting tender document	i) Last date and time for online issue of bid documents is upto 03.00 P.M on 16.10.2024 ii)The bidding document may also be downloaded from the website https://tntenders.gov.in/
3	Time/Date of receipt/ opening of bids	i) Last date and time for submission of Bid documents along with EMD upto 3.00 P.M on 16.10.2024 ii) Opening of bids will be on 17.10.2024 at 3.30 P.M
4	Address for Communications	The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, No.2, Wallajah Road, Tourism Complex, Chennai Tamil Nadu - 600 002, India Website: www.ttdconline.com Email: pe.ttdc@gmail.com Phone: 044-2533 3555

DIPR/3652/TENDER/2024 MANAGING DIRECTOR

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL - TIPTUR
TUMKUR DIST.
For Tender Details KPPP Portal Website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
No.: CMC/Tip/Tech/CR/49/2024-25 Date: 10/09/2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
As per KTTP Act 1999-2000 Rule 2000, Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Tiptur was invited Tender for Works under grants from eligible contractors who was registered in Public Works Department Tenderer can participate Tender for the following works in KPPP Portal website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Note: For more information contact office during working hours. Any Corrigendum or Addendum issued it will be given in KPPP portal.
KPPP Portal

Sl. No.	WORK INDENT	TENDER COST Rs.	EMD Rs.	Last Date of Tender	Date for Opening Tender
1	DMA/2024-25/IND3422	57,61,500/-	1,16,000/-	18.09.2024	19.09.2024

DIPR/TUM/RO-06/24-25/Oysters Sd/- Municipal Commissioner CMC Tiptur

Organ-on-chip tech could boost BioE3 objective to personalise medicine

Researchers currently take a decade and $2.3 billion on average to bring a drug from lab to the market. One big roadblock is that drugs that clear animal-testing in a clinical trial's early stages often fail when tested with humans. Organ-on-chip technology offers a solution to this problem

Manjeera Gowravaram
Viraj Mehta

Organ-on-chip technology offers a platform for testing drugs without involving animals or humans in the preclinical stages. JANET STEPHENS

On August 24, the Government of India announced the 'BioE3' policy to drive innovation in the biotechnology sector by establishing biomanufacturing facilities, bio-AI hubs, and bio-foundries. ('AI' stands for artificial intelligence.) A key focus area of the policy is precision therapeutics, which involve developing and administering drugs according to the needs of individual patients. The policy also aims to boost the development of biologics such as gene therapy and cell therapy.

Recent advancements in human-relevant 3D culture models, also known as 'new approach methods' (NAMs), have shown promising results in the field of precision therapeutics. These models include 3D spheroids, organoids, bioprinting, and organ-on-chips.

The global organ-on-chip market is expected to be worth around $1.4 billion by 2032. This expansion is the result of increasing investments in R&D within the field of NAMs, particularly in organ-on-a-chip technology. Since its invention, this technology has acquired significant momentum and stands poised to revolutionise the healthcare sector by integrating cells derived from a human body with a well-defined *in vitro* biological environment (i.e., in the lab) that mimics the body's conditions.

A major driving factor in the organ-on-chip market is the increasing demand to replace the use of animals to test drugs.

In April, an English company named CN Bio raised $21 million from venture capitalists to expand its R&D in organ-on-chip technology. In the U.S., Vivodyne raised $38 million in seed funding to integrate large-scale automation and AI with organ-on-chips. These are just two recent examples to illustrate the growing interest in this technology and its commercial value.

Drug testing and development

In the current and traditional drug development process, researchers take almost a decade and an average cost of $2.3 billion to bring a new drug from the lab to the market. However, many drug candidates also fail in the final stages of clinical trials. One major reason is that in the early stages of trials, these drugs are tested on animal models – animals genetically engineered to respond to a drug the way a human organ (or organs) might. Drugs that succeed on these animals often fail in humans, however.

Organ-on-chip technology offers a potential solution to this problem by providing a more accurate and efficient platform for testing drugs without involving animals or humans in preclinical testing. An organ-on-chip is a small device designed to recreate the dynamic functions of some human organ in a controlled microenvironment. They are expected to be better than the cell cultures and animal models researchers currently use for testing the effects of a drug. The results from the use of these devices would in turn provide a better understanding of the drug-candidate's efficacy and toxicity, reduce the use of animals, and pave the way for personalised treatment.

The technology could also reduce the time and cost of drug development, bringing drugs to the market faster and potentially at lower prices.

Investments in technology

Researchers first reported the usefulness of an organ-on-chip model in a 2010 study. Two years later, the U.S. National Institutes of Health allocated $100 million in funding for scientists to develop specific organs-on-chip devices, including for the kidneys, intestines, and the heart, as well as body-on-chip devices that could simulate the effects of a drug on multiple organs at once.

The technology's potential for drug development was quickly clear, and as a result, there are several organ-on-chip companies around the world today focussing on developing microphysiological systems for various organs. In addition to those above, chips exist today to mimic the liver and the lungs.

The U.S. government further boosted this field by passing the FDA Modernisation Act 2.0 in September 2022. The Act allows researchers to develop, use, and qualify organs-on-chips as a suitable alternative wherever applicable, including to test drugs at the preclinical stages of drug development. A year earlier, the members of the European Union had resolved to phase out the testing of cosmetics on animals. The bloc is currently working towards a regulatory framework for the use of NAMs, including organ-on-chips.

Many international pharmaceutical companies are also testing the waters. For instance, Bayer is collaborating with TissUse for a liver and multi-organ-on-a-chip model. Roche is using chips developed by Mimetas to study the effects of inflammatory bowel disease and hepatitis B virus infections. AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson are using several chips made by Emulate Bio for their biological research. According to one recent estimate, at least 30 pharmaceutical companies worldwide are evaluating organ-on-chip models in a bid to move away from animal testing.

> Organ-on-chips are devices designed to recreate the functions of human organs. They are expected to be better than the cell cultures and animal models researchers currently use for testing the effects of a drug

Challenges for India

India also took a step in this direction by amending the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019 to permit the use of human organs-on-chips and other NAMs prior to and in conjunction with animal testing when evaluating new drugs. In July this year, the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation hosted a workshop on the latest scientific and regulatory developments in the field of NAMs.

Developing an organ-on-chip technology requires experts from diverse fields – such as bioengineering, pharmacology, biotechnology, computer science, and clinical medicine – to work together. Currently, more than 80 laboratories are working on NAMs, including developing 3D culture models for various applications. To fully harness the technology's potential, India needs to establish dedicated centres that facilitate such collaboration.

Second, the presence of such centres will help to converse between industry and academia. In particular, personalised medicine requires NAMs to accommodate genetic differences between Indian populations for which a NAM is being tailored and the populations on which a given drug or therapy has already been tested.

Third, researchers will have to contend with regulatory bodies and their requirements and navigate regulatory frameworks pertaining to the development, standardisation, and qualification of organ-on-chip devices. The centres could streamline this process and ensure chips make it from the lab bench to the factory floor without a glitch.

Since these centres will host a dedicated and qualified team of researchers, they could also build a new skill base for the next generation of scientists and engineers and help ensure a steady flow of talent to drive the development of organ-on-chip technology forward. The centres could even create opportunities for an industry-linked doctoral programme to help graduate and postgraduate students to move seamlessly between academia, research, and industry after completing their education.

As medical research advances rapidly, it is important for the Indian government, the business and investment communities, and policymakers and regulators to facilitate the establishment of organ-on-chip centres that improve the healthcare system whilst boosting the economy. By supporting these technologies and centres, India could also increase its self-sufficiency in a domain of developmental and strategic importance.

(Manjeera Gowravaram has a PhD in RNA biochemistry and is a freelance science writer. Viraj Mehta has a PhD in biomedical engineering and supports pharmaceutical companies and CROs in establishing NAMs or microphysiological systems based assays for drug discovery and development.
gmanjeera@gmail.com
virajmehta64@gmail.com)

Churchill lures people eager to see its plentiful polar bears. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

World's 'polar bear capital' prepares for climate challenges

Associated Press

Churchill is a remote town some 1,700 km north of Winnipeg, Canada. It's a place where forests meet the tundra on the shore of Hudson Bay. The town lures people eager to see its plentiful polar bears, but as climate change edged into the picture, the locals began designing more flexible buildings and seeking to entice more varied visitors if, as scientists fear, shrinking sea ice sent the bear population crashing.

Residents, government officials, and experts say the town is a model for coping with dramatic shifts and attribute it to a rural mindset that focusses on fixing, not complaining.

The town once had thousands of people before the military base and a rocket research launch site shut down decades ago. Those sites fell into decay, and what had been a bustling port closed. Train service stopped for more than a year as weather shattered poorly maintained tracks.

As the town dwindled, bears began coming to town more often, no longer frightened by noise from the base and rocket launches and made desperate as climate change shrank the Hudson Bay ice they depend on as a base for hunting.

A local mechanic built a fat-tired, souped-up recreational vehicle to see bears safely. Photos and documentaries attracted tourists, who spend $5,000 a visit on average and millions of dollars overall. Churchill now bills itself as the polar bear capital of the world, and though it has no stoplights, it features upscale restaurants and plenty of mom-and-pop hotels.

The town was once busy until a rocket research launch site shut down. As the town shrank, bears began coming in more often, no longer frightened by noise from the launches

If that comes to an end, Churchill hopes to be ready.

The town is promoting tourism for beluga whales, although those too may be harmed as the entire Hudson Bay ecosystem, including the food the belugas eat, shifts to one usually seen further south. It's also highlighting visitors' prospects for seeing the northern lights, spotting birds they can't see at home, and even trying dogsledding.

Mike Spence, the mayor since 1995, grew up with the military installation, "and all of a sudden it closes, and then all of a sudden you get the tourists, the abundance of wildlife, and the aurora. That's where you take advantage of it. You sort of tweak things, and you improve life."

The shuttered port and the damaged train tracks? The town took them over and got both running again. Ground sinking because the weather is getting rainier and permafrost is thawing? New buildings have metal jacks that can be adjusted when a corner sinks nearly half a foot in five years.

Lauren Sorkin, executive director of the Resilient Cities Network, said every city should have a plan to adapt to climate change's effect on the economy and tourism.

"Churchill is a standout example of a city that is planning ahead to protect communities and preserve our natural environment and its biodiversity," she said.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

The science of sound-making

Siva Shakthi A.

QUESTION 1
Warner Bros. Pictures released the first talking film, *The Jazz Singer* in 1927. It used a device that drove an audio disc and a film with the same motor so that the sound synchronised with the picture. What was the device called?

QUESTION 2
A record is a medium to store sound data in the form of a flat disc cut with slim grooves. Until 1895, all records were made of wax or hard rubber. Both these materials were prone to defects, so they weren't durable. German-American inventor Emile Berliner overcame this issue by making records using _____, a synthetic compound until then being used in electrical components. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3
For a short time after they were invented, compact disc players used semiconductor lasers that emitted light of wavelength X to read audio data encoded in compact discs. What was the value of X? Hint: it's the upper end of the visible light range.

QUESTION 4
_____ _____ is an algorithm to losslessly compress data. It works by assigning a code to different input characters based on the frequencies of these characters to create MP3 files. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5
This device converts audio to electrical signals and imprints them on a magnetic material for playback later. It was inspired by the magnetophone, an audio record-cum-playback device developed by German engineers during World War II. Name the device.

Answers to September 5 quiz:
1. Transplantation procedure between individuals of different species – **Ans: Xenotransplantation**
2. Radiation discovered by German scientist in November 1895 – **Ans: X-rays**
3. Biological element implicated in Swyer, de la Chapelle, and Klinefelter syndromes – **Ans: X-chromosome**
4. Plants evolved to survive with very little liquid water – **Ans: Xerophytes**
5. Horizontal line in system René Descartes invented in the 17th century – **Ans: X-axis**
Visual: **Xenon**
First contact: Aakanksha Parihar | Varshinidevi K. | Thejasvi M. | Vaibhanshi Chaudhary | Sasireka Manivel

Answers to September 6 quiz:
1. Brain wave type associated with relaxation – **Ans: Theta waves**
2. Fatty acid crucial to maintain synaptic plasticity – **Ans: Omega-3 (DHA)**
3. Neurotransmitter with important role in learning and memory – **Ans: Dopamine**
4. Bilingualism increases plasticity in this part of the brain – **Ans: Prefrontal cortex**
5. Principle that "neurons that fire together wire together" – **Ans: Hebbian plasticity**
Visual: **Hippocampus**
First contact: P.N. Moorthy | Anmol Agrawal | Seema Das

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Lab-on-Wheels launched by Kristu Jayanti College

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Jayantian Extension Services of Kristu Jayanti College and the Department of Social Work of Karnataka inaugurated Yuva Avishkar, a Lab-on-Wheels initiative empowering the next generation to drive innovation, on September 10.

A flagship programme of Jayantian Extension Services, it strives to establish a conducive environment for experiential learning for school pupils.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, SEP. 12
RISE 06:09 SET 18:23
RISE 13:36 SET 00:05

FRIDAY, SEP. 13
RISE 06:09 SET 18:22
RISE 14:32 SET 01:03

SATURDAY, SEP. 14
RISE 06:09 SET 18:21
RISE 15:28 SET 02:04

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	25
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight. warm during the day. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Short spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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Only 52 lakh vehicles in State have HSRP

A special enforcement drive to be launched in Bengaluru and other cities after Sept. 15 deadline; vehicles without HSRP to be fined ₹500

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

With the deadline fast approaching, only 52 lakh vehicles in Karnataka have the mandated High Security Registration Plates (HSRP), leaving a staggering 1.4 crore still without them, according to the Transport Department. Despite this significant shortfall, the department has stated that the deadline for fixing them will not be extended beyond September 15. Any vehicle found without the HSRP after this date will face a fine of ₹500.

"Starting from September 16, we, along with the traffic police, will begin a special drive. Any vehicle found without the HSRP number plate will be fined ₹500. This will be done all across Karnataka, especially in areas with a high volume of vehicles," said Mallikarjuna C., Additional Transport Commissioner (Enforcement South).

In August 2023, the department issued a notification mandating HSRP for vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019, initially setting a deadline of November 17, 2023. However, the slow pace of compliance led to the deadline being extended three times – November 17, 2023, February 17, 2024, and later to May 17, 2024.

Vehicle owners have faced a series of issues. They range from long wait at installation centres to delays in plate availability.

A High Security Registration Plate being fixed on a vehicle at a showroom in Bengaluru.

Challenges faced by motorists

- Long wait at HSRP installation centres
- Shortage of registration plate
- HSRP with incorrect vehicle information
- Technical errors on HSRP registration website
- Lack of awareness about HSRP

Ravi Kumar, a resident of Rajajinagar, said, "I am unable to book my HSRP as the vehicle registration number is not recognised as Karnataka-registered, which is very strange. Despite raising a couple of complaints, there has been no resolution. I also tried with another car registered in Karnataka, and the issue persists with the same error."

Muralidhar Murthy from Banaswadi said, "I have faced challenges booking HSRP plates online, such as the website declining requests or not recognising my vehicle registration number."

Transport Department officials said they have established dedicated helplines. Officials stated that awareness campaigns have been launched, and frequently asked questions about HSRP have been posted on the department's website. Still, the uptake remains slow.

The HSRP is a tamper-proof number plate that features non-reusable locks. The plate can only be removed by breaking the lock. A blue 'Chakra' symbol is displayed on the left side of the plate, and the background colour varies based on the type of vehicle.

For instance, private vehicles have a white background with black numbers, while commercial vehicles have yellow plates. The word "INDIA" is hot-stamped on the number plate as well.

Each HSRP has a unique 10-digit number linked to the vehicle's chassis and engine numbers, which is stored in a centralised database. For cars, two such numbers are affixed – one on the front plate and one on the rear. A windshield sticker displays the vehicle's registration date, registration number, and the two HSRP identification numbers. In the case of two-wheelers, a single 10-digit number is engraved on the rear plate, and no sticker or card is issued.

Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation
Launch Programme of
First Phase of 100 New BS - VI Buses, Addition of 840 Buses at an expenditure of Rs. 336 crore through State Government's grant.
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Date: 12.09.2024 Time: 10.00 AM
Venue: In front of Vidhana Soudha East Gate (Grand Steps)
Launch by
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka
Special Invitees
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka
Kum. Shobha Karandlage
Hon'ble Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour & Employment, Government of India
Guests of Honour
Sri Basavaraj S. Horatti
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council
Sri U.T. Khader
Hon'ble Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly
August Presence
Sri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai, Government of Karnataka
Sri B.S. Suresh (Byrathi)
Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development, Government of Karnataka
Presided by
Sri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble MLA, Shivajinagar Assembly Constituency
Chief Guests
Sri K.J. George
Hon'ble Minister for Energy
Sri Krishna Byre Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for Revenue
Sri Dinesh Gundu Rao
Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare
Sri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Waqf and Minority Affairs
Sri Chalavadi Narayanaswamy
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Karnataka Legislative Council
Sri R. Ashoka
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Karnataka Legislative Assembly
Sri Saleem Ahmed
Hon'ble Government Chief Whip, Karnataka Legislative Council
Sri Ashok Mahadevappa Pattan
Hon'ble Government Chief Whip, Karnataka Legislative Assembly
Sri Doddannagouda H. Patil
Hon'ble Opposition Party Chief Whip, Karnataka Legislative Assembly
Sri N. Ravikumar
Hon'ble Opposition Party Chief Whip, Karnataka Legislative Council
Sri N.A. Haris
Hon'ble Chairman, Bangalore Development Authority and Hon'ble MLA, Shantinagar Assembly Constituency
Sri S.N. Narayanaswamy
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development & Finance Corporation Ltd. and Hon'ble MLA, Bangarapet Assembly Constituency
Sri Naseer Ahmed
Hon'ble Political Secretary to Chief Minister and Hon'ble MLC
Dr. K. Govindaraj
Hon'ble Political Secretary to Chief Minister and Hon'ble MLC
Hon'ble MPs Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha
Sri P.C. Mohan
Hon'ble MP, Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha Constituency
Sri L.S. Tejasvi Surya
Hon'ble MP, Bengaluru South Lok Sabha Constituency
Dr. C.N. Manjunath
Hon'ble MP, Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha Constituency
Dr. K. Sudhakar
Hon'ble MP, Chikkaballapura Lok Sabha Constituency
Sri G.C. Chandrashekar
Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha
Sri K. Narayana
Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha
Sri Leher Singh Siroya
Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha
Sri Jaggesh
Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha
Hon'ble MLAs / MLCs
Sri N. Suresh Kumar
Hon'ble MLA, Rajajinagar Assembly Constituency
Sri S. Raghu
Hon'ble MLA,C.V. Raman Nagar Assembly Constituency
Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan
Hon'ble MLA, Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency
Sri M. Krishnappa
Hon'ble MLA, Vijayanagar Assembly Constituency
Sri M. Satish Reddy
Hon'ble MLA, Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency
Sri M. Krishnappa
Hon'ble MLA, Bengaluru South Assembly Constituency
Sri L.A. Ravi Subramanya
Hon'ble MLA, Basavanagudi Assembly Constituency
Sri S.R. Vishwanath
Hon'ble MLA, Yelahanka Assembly Constituency
Sri B.A. Basavaraj (Byrati)
Hon'ble MLA, K.R. Pura Assembly Constituency
Sri K. Gopalaiah
Hon'ble MLA, Mahalakshmi Layout Assembly Constituency
Sri S.T. Somashekar
Hon'ble MLA,Yeshwanthapura Assembly Constituency
Sri S. Muniraju
Hon'ble MLA Dasarahalli Assembly Constituency
Sri B. Shivanna
Hon'ble MLA Anekal Assembly Constituency
Sri Munirathna
Hon'ble MLA R.R. Nagar Assembly Constituency
Sri Priya Krishna
Hon'ble MLA Govindrajnagar Assembly Constituency
Sri Uday B. Garudachar
Hon'ble MLA Chickpet Assembly Constituency
Sri A.C. Srinivas
Hon'ble MLA Pulakeshinagar Assembly Constituency
Smt. S. Manjula
Hon'ble MLA Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency
Sri C.K. Ramamurthy
Hon'ble MLA Jayanagar Assembly Constituency
Smt. Umashree
Hon'ble MLC
Sri B.K. Hariprasad
Hon'ble MLC
Sri U.B. Venkatesh
Hon'ble MLC
Sri Puttanna
Hon'ble MLC
Sri H.S. Gopinath
Hon'ble MLC
Sri M.R. Seetharam
Hon'ble MLC
Sri Chidanand M.Gowda
Hon'ble MLC
Sri K.A. Thippeswamy
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Sri T.A. Sharavana
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Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah
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Sri H.P. Sudham Das
Hon'ble MLC
Sri M. Nagaraj Yadav
Hon'ble MLC
Sri Keshava Prasad S.
Hon'ble MLC
Sri T.N. Javarayi Gowda
Hon'ble MLC
Sri Ramoji Gowda
Hon'ble MLC
Sri D.T. Srinivas
Hon'ble MLC
And all Elected Representatives of the State
Special Invitees
Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS
Chief Secretary to Govt. Government of Karnataka
Sri L.K. Atheeq, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Finance Department and Development Commissioner Government of Karnataka
Sri Gaurav Gupta, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Energy and Infrastructure Department, KUIDFC, Government of Karnataka
Sri S.R. Umashankar, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Urban Development Department Government of Karnataka
Dr. N.V. Prasad, IAS
Secretary to Govt., Transport Department Government of Karnataka
Sri V. Anbukumar, IAS
Managing Director Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Smt. Deepa Cholan, IAS
Commissioner, Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), Urban Development Department, Government of Karnataka
Sri Sharat B., IAS
Managing Director KUIDFC
Smt. Priyanga M., IAS
Managing Director North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation
Dr. K. Nandini Devi, IAS
Director (Personnel & Security) Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Sri M. Rachappa, KAS
(Super time scale) Managing Director Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation
All are Cordially Invited
As is enshrined in our Constitution, to safeguard public property and to abjure violence; is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country
Sri Ramalinga Reddy Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai is awarding the special talents of the staff of the corporation.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of the Amazon rainforest which is left unprotected

40 In per cent. According to an analysis by the nonprofit Amazon Conservation, the Amazon rainforest most critical to curbing climate change has not been granted special government protection. REUTERS

The concession on bus fares for PWDs and BPL women in Sikkim

100 In per cent. On Wednesday, the Sikkim government announced a 100% concession on bus fares for persons with over 40% disability and women in the BPL category. PTI

Anti-war protesters who clased with the police in Melbourne

1,200 Protesters clashed with police in Melbourne outside the military convention that brings together arms industry figures from Australia, U.S., Asia and Europe. AP

Magnitude of the earthquake recorded in parts of Pakistan

5.7 The earthquake originated at 12:28 pm Pakistan Standard Time (PST) and was felt in several parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces, including the country's capital Islamabad. PTI

The expansion in India's consumption loan portfolio

15 In per cent. According to the latest credit bureau report, the country's consumption loan portfolio grew to ₹90.3 lakh crore as of March 2024. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Tackling right-wing resurgence in Germany

The victories registered in Thuringia and Saxony by the far-right AfD could prove the biggest test yet to the mainstream parties' notional firewall to preclude any collaboration with the party, especially when the governing coalition is fighting speculation that it might break up and trigger snap parliamentary election

WORLD INSIGHT

Garimella Subramaniam

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) and the far-left Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW) have massively upended mainstream politics in two German regional elections on September 1. The AfD's victory in the stronghold state of Thuringia marks the first time in the country's post-war history that a radical right-wing party has come within touching distance of forming a government in a region. Similarly, in the regional polls in neighbouring Saxony, the AfD, sections of which Germany's domestic intelligence agency has designated as extremist, stood a close second behind the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

The recent surge follows a watershed moment last year, when it registered a significant presence in western Germany in the legislative elections in Bavaria and Hesse, as the three parties in the German chancellor Olaf Scholz's ruling coalition suffered a drubbing. Additionally, the BSW, launched in January, overtook all the constituents in the federal coalition in both regions. The AfD and BSW's inroads has come just a year before Germany's autumn 2025 elections.

Towards either extreme

Polling over 30% of the votes both in Thuringia and Saxony, the AfD has capitalised the most on the internecine squabbling within chancellor Scholz's coalition, extreme xenophobia and disapproval of German arms supplies to Ukraine. The scars from the upheavals of transition following German reunification in the 1990s also appear to weigh heavily on voters in the eastern regions.

The political tide turned particularly hostile when the federal government last year sought to ban gas and oil-fired boilers from 2024 to replace them with heat pumps powered by renewable

New rise: Participants gather to demonstrate against the AfD in Weimar, Germany, on September 2. AP

energy. The potential burden on households from the measure sparked intense outrage, forcing the government to water down the legislation. The controversy, moreover, exposed deep divisions in the ruling coalition between the Greens, who spearheaded the environment-friendly shift, and the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

Right-wing resurgence and response

Bjorn Hocke is the AfD's polarising ethno-nationalist leader from Thuringia who almost single-handedly moulded the AfD to an irretrievably ultra-nationalist hard-right movement. The former school teacher earned notoriety for his infamous denunciation in 2017 of Berlin's Holocaust Memorial to the Jews as a "monument of shame," calling for a "180 degree turnaround" in the country's attitude to its Nazi past. Undeterred by fines imposed by two courts, Mr. Hocke continues to spout banned Nazi era slogans in his speeches. He has drawn fresh ammunition from the refugee influx from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which was well in excess of the one million inflows from the Syrian conflict in 2015. Mr. Hocke is one of the architects of the party's aggressive push for the repatriation of migrants, a euphemism for the mass deportation of German nationals with immigrant roots.

Even though Mr. Scholz has warned mainstream parties against forging alliances with the AfD, his own governing coalition is fighting speculation that it might break up and trigger snap parliamentary elections. While the main opposition CDU aims to exploit the slump in the popularity of the ruling coalition in the 2025 general elections, its leader Friedrich Merz has so far proved ineffective in realising his pledge to halve the poll ratings of the AfD. The failure may have something to do with the CDU's controversial approach, in its new programme adopted in May, to return the party to its old conservative principles. The new programme requires immigrants to sign on to the country's dominant culture and knowledge of German history, besides recognising Israel's right to exist. Most controversial of them all is a plan to discourage refugees from seeking asylum in Germany, by transferring applicants to "safe" third countries.

Mr. Merz has been explicit that Germany could emulate the U.K.'s controversial policy to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda.

The way forward

The victory in Thuringia could prove the biggest test yet to the mainstream parties' notional firewall to preclude any collaboration with the AfD.

Sahra Wagenknecht, the BSW leader, has emerged kingmaker following the CDU's invitation to explore a coalition in Thuringia. While such a deal seems the only realistic option to isolate the AfD in the state, there are clear indications that talks are headed for a hard bargain. For a start, there are rumblings within both the CDU and BSW against working with an arch ideological opponent.

Some of the terms Ms. Wagenknecht has placed for discussion fall outside the purview of the regions. She has for instance insisted that her party's support for a government would be conditional upon the cancellation of plans Chancellor Schulz and U.S. President Joe Biden have finalised with respect to stationing medium-range missiles in Germany. Her other condition, to the discomfort of many in the CDU who regard her as an apologist for Russian President Vladimir Putin, is to explore a diplomatic resolution to the conflict in Ukraine.

The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Technologies.

THE GIST

- Polling over 30% of the votes both in Thuringia and Saxony, the AfD has capitalised the most on the internecine squabbling within chancellor Scholz's coalition, extreme xenophobia and disapproval of German arms supplies to Ukraine.
- Bjorn Hocke is the AfD's polarising ethno-nationalist leader from Thuringia who almost single-handedly moulded the AfD to an irretrievably ultra-nationalist hard-right movement.
- Sahra Wagenknecht, the BSW leader, has emerged kingmaker following the CDU's invitation to explore a coalition in Thuringia.

Why did Brazil's Supreme Court suspend X?

Why have Justice Alexandre de Moraes and Elon Musk been involved in a public dispute about X?

G. Sampath

The story so far:

Brazil's Supreme Court on August 30 ordered the "immediate, complete and total suspension of X's operations" in the country. Justice Alexandre de Moraes took the decision after X failed to appoint a legal representative in Brazil within the stipulated time. Mr. Moraes also ordered that anyone found accessing X using a VPN (Virtual Private Network) would have to pay a fine of 50,000 reals per day.

What is the background?

For nearly two years, Mr. Moraes has been probing what he calls "digital militias" – far-right groups and backers of Brazil's erstwhile President Jair Bolsonaro. When Mr. Bolsonaro lost the 2022 elections, these groups used X and other platforms to cast doubt on the integrity of the elections and incite violence, leading to the January 8, 2023 riots in the capital Brasilia when Bolsonaro's supporters attacked federal buildings, including the Supreme Court, with the aim of triggering a military coup. The Court viewed this as a direct attack on Brazilian democracy and asked Mr. Moraes to investigate it. As his probe progressed, Mr. Moraes ordered X to suspend scores of accounts for spreading disinformation and hand over information about them, including IP addresses, to aid in prosecution.

What was X's response?

Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of X, refused to comply with Mr. Moraes's demands, and even said that accounts suspended earlier would be reactivated. In April, Mr. Moraes responded by bringing Mr. Musk under the purview of his investigation, triggering a public arm wrestle with the billionaire tycoon.

X also claimed that Mr. Moraes had threatened its legal representative in Brazil with arrest and ordered a daily fine of 20,000 reals ($3,580) for non-compliance. On August 17, Musk announced on X that rather than comply with the judicial orders, he had decided "to close our operation in Brazil, effective immediately." While X's offices were shut down, its services remained available in the country. In the face of X's continued defiance, and as the fines remained unpaid, Mr. Moraes gave an ultimatum of 24 hours for X to appoint a legal representative – a requirement for any company operating in Brazil. X ignored this demand, and once the deadline passed, Mr. Moraes ordered suspension of X until all court orders are complied.

What are the implications?

The refusal by X, a foreign company in Brazil, to obey local laws have raised important questions about regulatory sovereignty, the right mechanisms for curbing disinformation, free speech rights versus censorship, and cross-border internet governance. It has also flagged how social media can be weaponised for political purposes – with earlier Facebook in the U.S., and now X in Brazil coming under investigations for promoting incendiary far-right disinformation. Analysts have pointed out the Brazilian case is more complicated by the fact that X's owner, Elon Musk, has not only aligned himself with one political faction and politician, Mr. Bolsonaro, but has also been posting vituperative remarks against one of the country's top judicial officers.

Within Brazil, one stream of thought, especially on the right, considers Mr. Moraes' orders as an instance of judicial overreach. Others have acknowledged that his actions stem from a broad interpretation of judicial powers rather than specific legal provisions. But they believe that his draconian measures were required at a time when other institutions have failed to counter the serious attacks on Brazilian democracy.

How has the order panned out so far?

Starlink, another Musk-owned company that provides satellite internet service in large parts of Brazil, initially refused to block X, but caved in subsequently after the Supreme Court ordered its bank accounts to be frozen. Clearing the air on whether the ban was an individualistic act of one radical judge, five justices of the Supreme Court have voted to endorse the ban. As for ordinary Brazilians, a great number of them migrated to Bluesky, which claimed that it had gained 2.6 million new users within five days of X going offline. Most users and analysts, however, consider the fine of 50,000 reals for accessing X via VPN excessive.

THE GIST

- Brazil's Supreme Court on August 30 ordered the "immediate, complete and total suspension of X's operations" in the country. Justice Alexandre de Moraes took the decision after X failed to appoint a legal representative in Brazil within the stipulated time.
- For nearly two years, Mr. Moraes has been probing what he calls "digital militias" — far-right groups and backers of Brazil's erstwhile President Jair Bolsonaro.
- Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of X, refused to comply with Mr. Moraes's demands, and even said that accounts suspended earlier would be reactivated.

There should be no doubt over my continuation as CM: Siddaramaiah

This comes as Congress is grappling with talks by some Ministers about their eligibility for the post

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday asserted that there should be no doubt over his continuation in the post.

This comes as the Congress is grappling with politically ambitious talks about the chief ministerial post by nearly half a dozen Cabinet Ministers since Mr. Siddaramaiah's name was dragged into the issue of alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Corporation (MUDA).

Attempting to put to rest speculations around the post, he said such a discussion does not matter when the post is not vacant.

'Post is not vacant'

"There is no question of such a discussion [on leadership change] when the Chief Minister's post is not vacant. There should be no doubt over my continuation as the Chief Minister," he told presspersons here. He also pointed out that Ministers were also saying that he would continue as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Siddaramaiah's statement came after multiple Congress leaders highlighted the damage being caused to the government and the party by Ministers publicly declaring their chief ministerial ambitions. A few MLCs have also sought action against the Ministers and leaders who have joined the conversation on leadership change publicly. They include Ministers M.B. Patil, Satish Jarkiholi, and G. Parameshwara besides senior Congress leaders R.V. Deshpande and Basavaraj Rayaraddi, who have at different points in time publicly stated their chief ministerial ambition despite the party asking leaders to not speak on the leadership issue.

The speculation over a change of leadership has intensified after Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular), targeted the Chief Minister for his alleged involvement in the MUDA scam and sought his resignation. So far, the Congress has been backing the Chief Minister and has accused the Opposition and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot of attempts to destabilise the democratically elected government.

It may be noted that following complaints by a few persons, the Governor has given permission for an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in MUDA involving the Chief Minister's wife.

The issue is now before the Karnataka High Court as Mr. Siddaramaiah has challenged the Governor's action.

Paying tribute: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the National Forest Martyrs' Day programme at Aranya Bhavan in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

'Govt. not indulging in hate politics against BJP leaders'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Claiming that the government is not indulging in hate politics to target BJP leaders, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday maintained that the Cabinet sub-committee under Home Minister G. Parameshwara had been set up to monitor progress and achieve coordination in investigations into the scams that were reported during the previous BJP government.

He also said that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to take action in the alleged scam in the recruitment of police sub-inspectors.

To hasten probe

"The Cabinet sub-committee will hasten the investigation into the 21 scams that were reported during the BJP government's tenure and it will also recommend measures to be taken. We have given one to two months for the committee to submit its recommendation," the Chief Minister told presspersons here. Incidentally, the communique from the Chief Minister's Office on Tuesday night did not give the five-member Ministers' committee any time frame in which the alleged scams had taken place. The committee has Ministers H.K. Patil, Krishna Byre Gowda, Santosh Lad, and Priyank Kharge as members.

Stating that the Cabinet would take an appropriate decision on the report on alleged irregularities in handling COVID-19 submitted by retired judge John Michael D'Cunha after officials review the report, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "Action will be initiated against those who have committed mistakes. We are not indulging in revenge politics like the way the BJP is accusing. In fact, they are indulging in hate politics against me." He pointed out that the inquiry commissions have been set up to prove COVID-19 irregularities and allegations of 40% commission in awarding contract for public works.

When his attention was drawn to no action being initiated in the PSI recruitment scam though the B. Veerappa commission had given its report, Mr. Siddaramaiah said instructions had been given to the special investigation team to act on it.

Valmiki corpn. scam: Opposition set to take out padayatra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the Enforcement Directorate filing a chargesheet naming the then Minister B. Nagendra as the main accused in the case of financial irregularities in Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation Ltd., the Opposition BJP-JD(S) combine is set to take out a padayatra to create public awareness about these irregularities.

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy

Political circles are curious to see if the proposed padayatra will bring BJP disgruntled leaders into the mainstream as the original proposal on a padayatra had been made by such leaders led by former Union Minister Basanagouda Patil Yatnal. However, the party high command has asked the entire State unit to participate in the padayatra.

At a press conference here on Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said the party high command had suggested that the State unit embark on a padayatra to highlight the financial irregularities in the corporation. He said though the BJP had earlier taken out the Mysuru Chalo padayatra on various alleged irregularities in the Congress regime, its focus had remained mainly on irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) considering the destination of the march.

Hence it would be appropriate to take out a padayatra now over the Valmiki corporation issue, he said. It may also be noted that the Enforcement Directorate in its chargesheet in the case has named Mr. Nagendra as the main accused contrary to the chargesheet filed by the State's Special Investigation Team that had not mentioned his name.

To Ballari?

Mr. Narayanaswamy said details of the padayatra would be worked out later through consultations. However, he indicated that the padayatra's destination could be Ballari as that district has substantial population of ST communities.

It may be noted that the BJP has been accusing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of failure to prevent financial irregularities in the corporation as he also holds the financial portfolio. It has been demanding Mr. Siddaramaiah's resignation over the financial irregularities.

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

S. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	SE / Transmission - II	T.2310	1
2	CE / System Operation / Ch	E-03/2024-25	1

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/3654/Tender/2024

BJP office security tightened

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the NIA chargesheet mentioned the accused in The Rameshwaram Cafe blast case had planned an attack on the BJP State office here, security has been tightened at the party's office at Malleswaram since Tuesday.

A team of police personnel have been stationed at the office, and a door-framed metal detector has been installed at the entrance to check visitors. In addition to this, a platoon of armed reserve police has been deployed.

A security audit has been done to check CCTV cameras within and around the office building. Policemen in plain clothes have also been deployed, and the local intelligence network has been reviewed to keep an eye on any suspicious activity.

Force deployed: Police Commissioner B. Dayananda has said all precautionary measures have been taken to ensure security at the BJP State office in Bengaluru.

Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said all precautionary measures had been taken to ensure security and refused to comment further.

According to the NIA chargesheet filed on September 9, the accused involved in the cafe blast initially planned to target the BJP State office on January 22, 2024, the day when the Ram idol was consecrated at the Ayodhya temple and there were celebrations at the office. This revelation has now led to the city police reviewing security at the party office.

BJP questions appointment of KPCC office-bearers to govt. ad panel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok has taken exception to the government appointing Congress office-bearers as members of the Information Department's Media Advertisement Review Committee. Pointing out that KPCC spokesperson Ramesh Babu and KPCC general secretary Ramachandrappa have been appointed members of the four-member committee that looks into government advertisements, Mr. Ashok wondered if they had any relevant qualification or expertise to be in such a committee.

Arguing that retired editors of media houses or retired officials from the advertisement wing of the Information Department should have been made members of such a committee, he wondered if the government was trying to indirectly control the media through such political appointments.

Survey of houseless to be conducted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Housing, Minorities Welfare and Waqf Zameer Ahmad Khan on Wednesday said a decision had been taken to conduct a survey of houseless and households having no sites for construction of houses in the State.

About 2.32 lakh houses would be constructed for the houseless poor, Mr. Khan said. Speaking at the inauguration of a benefit distribution programme organised by the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation at Haj Bhavan here, he said ₹3,200 crore has been allocated for the welfare of the minorities.

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT
E.L.D.C.No.SMII / P1 / 1231 / 2024 **E-Tender**
E - bids are invited for the following work by SE/Electrical.
Selection of Concessionaire(s) for Assigning the Advertisement Rights for Street Light Poles in Bus Route Roads in Greater Chennai Corporation Zones on PPP mode.
E-Tender Value : Rs.30,00,00,000
Pre bid meeting to be held on 25.09.2024 at 03.00 PM in the chamber of Superintending Engineer / Electrical
Interested bidders can participate in E-Tender through the website **http://tntenders.gov.in on 24.10.2024 before 3.00 PM,** E-Tenders will be opened on **25.10.2024 at 3.15 PM** in the chamber of Superintending Engineer
DIPR / 3668 / Tender / 2024 **SE/Electrical**

TAMIL NADU INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
3rd floor, CMDA Building Tower-II, 'Thalamuthu-Natarajan Maaligai', No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008
Phone: 044- 28550155/255/355/455; E-mail: soinfra.findpt@tn.gov.in
Website: www.tnidb.tn.gov.in
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION
Empanelment of Consultancy Firms for various Sectors/ Sub Sectors/ Functional Areas
1. The Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board invites proposal from Legal Firms/ Advocates and Chartered Accountant (CA)/Audit Firms for Empanelment.
2. Request for Qualification (RfQ) may be downloaded from the websites - **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** and **https://tnidb.tn.gov.in/en/**. The tender fee (non-refundable) of Rs.5,000/- is to be paid through e-procurement portal.
3. A virtual pre-proposal conference for the prospective applicants is scheduled on 20.09.2024 at 11:30 Hours.
4. Proposals complete in all respect must be submitted online through the e-procurement process as specified in the RFQ on or before 15.00 Hours on 18.10.2024.
5. All other details are available in the Request for Qualification (RfQ).
DIPR/3648/Tender/2024 **Chief Executive Officer, TNIDB**

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Notice Inviting E-Tender from reputed and reliable manufacturer by the Tender Inviting Authority/ Administrator of Chengalrayan Co-op. Sugar Mills Ltd, Periyasevalai for supply of the following equipments.

Sl. No.	Description of tender	E.M.D. in Rs.	Last date for Submission of E-Tender (on-line)	E-Tender opening Date and time (Part - I)	Place
1	Complete Design, Manufacturing Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 18 MW Co-generation Plant, Power Turbine New Rotor Assembly Completely Bladed and Dynamically Balanced as per the technical specification in E-Tender.	3,15,500/-	26.09.2024 3.00 PM	27.09.2024 3.00 PM	The D.S.NO: 4 Chengalrayan Co-op. Sugar Mills Ltd, Periyasevalai – 607 209 Villupuram District.

Note: No Physical format is accepted. Tender submission through online only.
DIPR/3672/TENDER/2024 ADMINISTRATOR.

Share details of woman with all stations to ensure they're wary of her plaints, HC tells State police chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pointing out that 10 men have already "fallen prey to the antics and tactics of a woman whose *modus operandi* borders on honey-trap character", the High Court of Karnataka has directed the State police chief to caution all the police stations against registering criminal case against any man without conducting a preliminary inquiry if the woman lodges any new complaint.

The court said the woman's details had to be digitally circulated to all police stations to ensure they are wary of her complaints. "This is

to curb, if not stop, wanton registration of crimes against several men. Ten have been seen, it is only to stop the eleventh," observed Justice M. Nagaprasanna while quashing a criminal case, which was the woman's 10th criminal case lodged against different men. The woman registered this case against her 'husband' in September 2022 after merely 25 days of marriage, alleging that he and his family members, including his 75-year-old grandmother, had committed offences of causing hurt, insult, and subjecting her to cruelty, etc.

Though the marriage with the 36-year-old petitioner was registered after the settlement of a complaint of alleged 'rape on false promise of marriage', the court, from the police records, found that she had declared herself as 'unmarried' in the marriage registration form even though she had 'married' another man earlier and had registered a criminal case against him too way back in 2011 on the similar allegations apart from accusing him of harassment for dowry.

From the police records, the court noted that she had registered 10 complaints between 2011 and 2022 against 10 different men, either terming them as 'husband' or as accused for the offence of rape on false promise of marriage and other criminal offences.

Abstained from trial

Interestingly, in three of the cases registered by her, the woman had not attended the trial of the criminal cases. In these three cases, the trial court had acquitted the accused men as she failed to turn up for trial.

If the crimes registered by the woman are noticed for the last one decade, "the unmistakable inference would be that the complainant at every point in time is crying wolf, and has gone on, registering crimes without any semblance of substance as a result of which the accused are taken into custody; they had to secure bail after long hiatus in the custody...," the court said. As she had not attended the trial of any of the cases registered based on her complaint, the court said that the "police were compelled to engage in investigating into false claims or crimes registered by the complainant" and the trial courts had acquitted all.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Parvathy (a) Chellam
(of Sengottai) Wife of R. Krishnamurthy (B.E., F.I.E., Ex-NLC), passed away on September 8th, 2024
We thank the Geri Care Hospital team for the treatment and advice.
Mourned by:
Subha, Sriram, Srikanth and Krishnamurthy (Ramu/Kalki).
Ph: 98401 58702

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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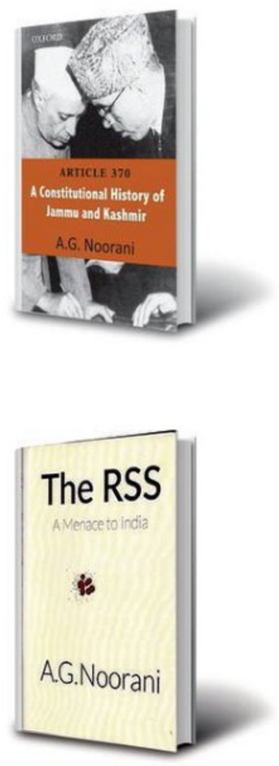
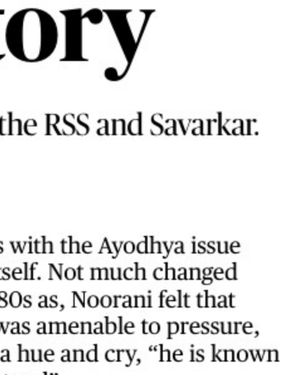
LOWER CAUVERY BASIN CIRCLE, THANJAVUR.
E- TENDER NOTICE - FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPSUM – ITEM RATE CONTRACT
(Two Cover system)
e- Tender Notice No.3/2024-2025/LCBC -TNJ./dated: 11.09.2024
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited from the registered, experienced in irrigation projects and eligible contractors by the Superintending Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur for the following works.

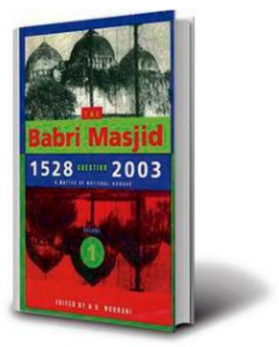
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate work value (including GST 18%) (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Amount Rs. in lakhs	Period of Completion (including rainy season)	Tender Submission through online closing date and time (as per server system clock)	Opening of Tenders through online date and time(as per server system clock)	Executive Engineer Address
1.	Construction of New Tail End Regulator across Vettar river at Mile 92/0 in Uthamacholapuram Village in Nagapattinam Taluk and District.	4720.00	23.80	24 months	15.10.2024 upto 11.00 AM	16.10.2024 at 11.05 AM	Executive Engineer, WRD, Vennar Basin Division, Thiruvarur
2	Construction of Check dam across Maharajasamudram river near Vettikadu (Sillathur) village of Orathanadu Taluk in Thanjavur district.	831.91	4.50	8 months	15.10.2024 upto 11.00 AM	16.10.2024 at 11.30 AM	Executive Engineer, WRD, Agniyar Basin Division, Pattukkottai

Tender documents will be available in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** from **12.09.2024** and it can be downloaded free of cost as mentioned above. Other details can also be available from the above and in the office of the Superintending Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur.
Any Corrections / Corrigendum / Extension, if any will be issued in the above web site only.
DIPR/ 3666 /TENDER/2024 **Superintending Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Pakistan's former President Pervez Musharraf with A.G. Noorani.

A.G. Noorani's books are testimony to his eclectic interests in politics and history

The constitutionalist and scholar wrote with equal relish on the Constitution as he did on Kashmir, or the Babri Masjid, Islam, the RSS and Savarkar. Brave, fair and fearless, Noorani said what needed to be said, without equivocation

Ziya Us Salam

He demanded patience, tons of it, from his readers. He asked too, of elementary understanding of contemporary politics. And maybe a nodding acquaintance with history. But whenever you read A.G. Noorani, you were enriched – the author's rare ability to sift through seemingly endless piles of papers and reams of documents to craft an unbeatable argument left you in absolute awe. Reading Noorani was seldom a joy; it always was an education.

His 16 books, and thousands of newspaper columns, dating back to the early 1960s and up to 2022, were a masterclass in understatement. He wrote long essays and books running into hundreds of pages. Yet, what was always critical was not what he said, but what he left unsaid. The best of Noorani, and he was among the very best in his stream, lay not in the lines he wrote, but between the lines. Add to that his eye for detail which would have made an architect proud, and patience which would not have been amiss with a jeweller, and you get a once-in-a-generation package answering to the name of Abdul Ghafoor Noorani, the colossus who breathed his last recently.

Unmasking India

For a man who wrote with equal relish on Kashmir as he did on Ayodhya, or Bhagat Singh and the Constitution, on Islam as well as diplomacy; it is well-nigh impossible to say where exactly lay his strength. Was he a constitutional expert who stood up for the Fundamental Rights of our citizens, a scholar of history who ripped apart many assumptions about Bhagat Singh and Savarkar, and indeed about the Babri Masjid-Ramjanmabhoomi imbroglio? Or was he at his best when it came to unmasking the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a non-governmental body with self-proclaimed non-political aspirations but one which has exercised unseemly control over at least a couple of Prime Ministers? Talking of the RSS, Noorani left nothing to the imagination in his book, *The RSS: A Menace to India*. With no claims to euphemisms, the book announced, "India is battling for its very soul. The RSS is the most powerful organisation in India today; complete with a private army of it own, unquestionably obeying its leader who functions on fascist lines on the Fuehrer principle....The RSS is at war with India's past. It belittles three of the greatest builders of the Indian state – Ashoka, the Buddhist; Akbar, the Muslim; and Nehru, a civilised Enlightened Hindu." The words had a ring of forecast to it, as the BJP's attempts to belittle Akbar's accomplishments and their constant mocking of Nehru have proved.

Brave, fair and fearless, Noorani said what needed to be said, without equivocation. For instance, take his views on the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) in the same book. On the ABVP, he wrote, "In 2017, the ABVP had a young 49-year-old Sunil Ambedkar as its head...the ABVP, the VHP, the Bajrang Dal are all independent of the BJP. To bridle the BJP, the VHP hurls abuses at it, driving the BJP to seek Nagpur's protection. That is granted and the BJP begins to adhere to the RSS line." He talked about the BJP and the RSS in greater detail and with equal felicity in *The RSS and the BJP: A Division of Labour*.

As for the VHP, he wrote, "The VHP cut its teeth on the anti-cow slaughter movement in New Delhi in 1966 on the eve of the 1967 general election. In April 1984 it declared for the first time its resolve to 'liberate' the birthplace of Ram at Ayodhya." By the way, 1984 was also an election year as was 1989 when the Congress government allowed it to conduct shilanyas.

Unsparing to none

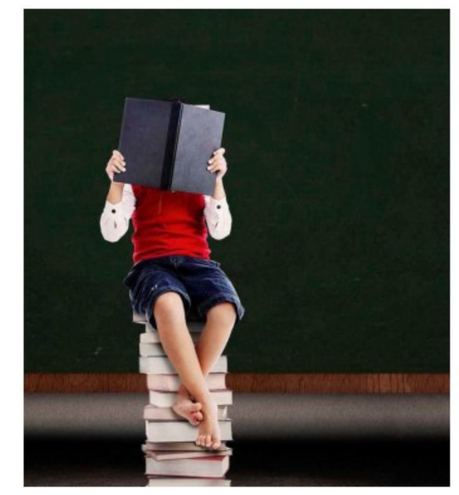
If Noorani was relentless in his criticism of the Hindutva politics, he did not spare the Congress either. In his painstakingly researched two-volume exercise, *The Babri Masjid Question*, he unmasked the party by highlighting how the socialist leader Acharya Narendra Deva was presented as a 'lesser' Hindu by the Congress, much the same way some BJP leaders seek to do to the Congress today. Noorani wrote, "In his speeches Gobind Ballabh Pant repeatedly declared that Narendra Deva does not believe in Lord Ramachandra and does not wear the chhot, or tuft of hair, worn by all devout Hindus." Pandit Pant, wrote Noorani, had played politics with the Ayodhya issue back in 1948 itself. Not much changed even in the 1980s as, Noorani felt that Rajiv Gandhi was amenable to pressure, and that after a hue and cry, "he is known to renege his stand".

The Kashmir question

From the BJP and the Congress to bureaucrats, Noorani's ire visited them all. He hauled over the coals K.K.K. Nair, the district magistrate of Faizabad district, and Guru Datta Singh, the city magistrate, who cast a Nelson's eye to the smuggling of the idols of Ram, Lakshman and Sita inside the Babri Masjid on the night of December 22-23, 1949.

Noorani brought much the same acumen in understanding the knotty affairs of Kashmir. In his landmark work, *The Kashmir Dispute 1947-2012*, he talked not just of the intricate web of history of the long-festering issue, he opened a window to the discontent in the State, and exposed those behind it. Again, he played no favourites. In *Article 370: A Constitutional History of Jammu and Kashmir*, which came almost a decade before the Modi government annulled the Article, he wrote about the systematic dilution of the special status accorded to the erstwhile State through the years.

Every book of Noorani is a treasure. Little wonder then that in *The Muslims of India: A Documentary Record*, noted historian Mushirul Hasan commented on the writings as something that, "should be owned...not borrowed." One could say the same about all the works of Noorani.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

What's the matter? Got the blues?"

"The blues? What are you talking about?"

"When somebody has got the blues, he/she is sad and depressed."

"Sad and depressed, eh? Well, in that case, I'm sad and depressed all right. And I'll tell you why."

"Please do."

"I scored a big zero in yesterday's cricket match. And it was my first match as captain."

'That's too bad."

"Too bad! It was terrible. The umpire gave me out when I hadn't even touched the ball. I was really angry."

"You saw red, did you?"

"Saw red?"

"Yes, saw red. 'To see red' means to become very angry. I always see red whenever I read about political bandhs."

"I don't see red when I read about bandhs or strikes. But I saw red yesterday when the umpire raised his finger. And to make matters worse, the vice-captain of my team hit a century. I saw red then too."

"You were angry because the vice-captain scored a century?"

"Well, not angry, but I was jealous."

"Ah, so you were green with envy."

"Does 'green with envy' mean jealous?"

"Yes. Some turn green with envy when others prosper."

"That's true. I certainly did turn green with envy yesterday."

"Anyway, did you win the match?"

"Oh yes. We won it quite comfortably. But I dropped two catches while fielding."

"What did your coach say?"

"I think he was too angry to speak."

"That angry, eh?"

"I've never seen him so angry. I don't know if I'll continue to be captain of the team. My future looks so..."

"Rosy?"

"Rosy! Are you joking! It is anything but rosy."

"Oh come on! Cheer up! Remember every cloud has a silver lining."

"What does that mean?"

"It means there is always a bright side to any bad situation. In other words, something good will come out of your present situation."

"I hope you're right."

"You have explained some colourful idioms today."

"Colourful?"

"Yes."

"Do you know the difference between 'colourful' and 'coloured'?"

"No. Is there a difference?"

"Yes."

" 'Colourful' means 'full of interest, lively, vivid'. *He is a colourful person.* 'Coloured' means 'exaggerated.' *It is a highly coloured version of what really happened last night.*"

"So 'colourful' is a compliment and 'coloured' is not."

"That's right."

Published in The Hindu on May 11, 1993.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Diacritical marks are uncommon in the English language but for many others that use the Latin alphabet, the marks help maintain the intended pronunciation

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

These two diacritical marks are mirror images of each other. One is called the ogonek. What's the other called? In Spanish, it means "little Z". You usually find this mark used in a word that means the face of a structure, sometimes a false one.

QUESTION 2

Acute, grave, and caron are three types of diacritical marks belonging to a larger group called _____. Fill in the blank with a word that had its origins in the fact that the three types were historically used to denote contrasting pitches when pronouncing a word.

QUESTION 3

The official language of the smallest region of Finland is Swedish. Its capital is named for the Empress Maria Alexandrovna of Russia. Name the diacritical mark that appears on the first letter of this region's name.

QUESTION 4

The use of this diacritical mark denotes a long vowel in many languages — from French to Japanese letters converted to the Latin alphabet in the Nihon-shiki system. But in statistics, this symbol over a variable indicates the variable's value is an estimate. Name the mark.

QUESTION 5

This country is located off Central Africa, near the equator, and is an archipelago with two main islands. The country's name includes diacritical marks but the UN spells it on occasion without the marks. Name the country.

Visual question:

There are two countries whose names the UN spells with diacritical marks. One is Türkiye. Name the other, whose territory is visible (in green) on this map. MARTIN23230 (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. On the morning of September 11, 19 terrorists hijacked these many commercial airliners. **Ans: Four**
2. The place where the fourth plane crashed. **Ans: The fourth plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania**
3. The term for the global counterterrorist military campaign initiated by the U.S following the September 11 attacks. **Ans: Global War on Terrorism/ War of Terror**
4. The U.S. invoked this article of the NATO to call upon allies to fight Al-Qaeda. **Ans: Article 5; the U.S. has only invoked it once to date**
5. The site which is termed Ground Zero. **Ans: The World Trade Center site**
Visual: The man who take the photo and the name of the photo. **Ans: The Falling Man by Richard Drew**
Early Birds: Prashansa Lohumi| K.N. Viswanathan| Dodo Jayaditya| Tito Shiladitya| Barnali Biswas

Word of the day

Piffle:
trivial nonsense; speak (about unimportant matters) rapidly and incessantly

Synonyms: balderdash, fiddle-faddle, chatter, clack, gabble, gibber, blabber, tattle, twaddle, prattle

Usage: *His story is complete piffle.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/pifflepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpɪf.əl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Paws-itive encounters: Best practices in dealing with stray dogs and preventing conflicts

The death of an elderly woman in an attack by a pack of stray dogs has not only jolted the authorities into action, but has also triggered aggression towards the stray dog feeders

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

According to 2023 data from BBMP, there are about 2.79 lakh stray dogs in Bengaluru. Around 30,000-35,000 dog bites are recorded in the city every year, and four deaths have been reported in the State in 2024 till date, including three due to rabies.

As per BBMP data, ABC programmes have helped in bringing down the number of stray dogs in the city by 10% between 2019 and 2023.

Manjunath (name changed), who does door-to-door garbage collection every day at an upscale residential layout in R.T. Nagar, makes it a point to feed the stray dogs in the area every morning.

"The sound of the pick-up truck is breakfast call for the dogs," he laughs.

"Strays from the 3rd Main road gather at a place a little away from the street, while dogs from the first and second streets follow me till the junction of the roads where they are fed. No conflicts, no fight for food," he says.

However, recently, he was interrupted by one resident who threatened to complain to higher officials if he continued doing it.

"She was scared the dogs would attack the children although no such thing has happened in the area till now," says Manjunath who continues to feed the dogs.

The death of an elderly woman in an attack by a pack of stray dogs near Jalahalli has not only jolted the authorities into action, but also triggered a deluge of misinformation, calls for relocation of stray dogs, and instances of aggression towards dog feeders.

So, what is it that the authorities, communities and individuals can do to approach such issues with sensitivity and avoid instances of conflict?

Why dogs get aggressive

According to 2023 data from BBMP, there are about 2.79 lakh stray dogs in Bengaluru. Around 30,000-35,000 dog bites are recorded in the city every year, and four deaths have been reported in the state in 2024 till date, including three due to rabies.

Dr. Abhignya, a senior veterinarian with a private clinic in the city, notes that reasons for a non-rabid dog's aggression could be multiple including hunger, fear of being threatened, during mating season, while protecting their young, and having territorial instincts.

She advises against staring at dogs, scaring them with sticks or stones, running away from them, disturbing a mother dog who is with her pups, and carrying food openly when around dogs.

While these are important measures to be taken at an individual level, at a larger level concerted efforts from authorities and communities are important to ensure conflict-less coexistence of humans and dogs, experts note.

More effective ABC measures

An important piece of the equation is the animal birth control (ABC) and anti rabies vaccination (ARV) measures. Birth control operations help to reduce sexual aggression and maternal aggression among dogs while ARV prevents rabies.

"When there's a loss of life, it's obviously very sad. It's unfortunate that it takes an incident like this to trigger everyone into action," says Kam Raghavan, founder and trustee at All Paws Community, referring to the death of the senior citizen in Jalahalli.

"All of a sudden, I'm seeing ABC vans in our neighbourhood but it doesn't work like that. Action must be consistent and initiated from a place of real intent to bring about a change," she adds.

As per the BBMP data, ABC programmes have helped in bringing down the number of stray dogs in the city by 10% between 2019 and 2023. It also claims that 73% of dogs have been sterilised.

While activists acknowledge the efforts by BBMP, they feel more can be done.

"I have a lot of respect for the programmes. BBMP has set up several facilities around the city to work with NGOs to pick up stray dogs, sterilise and vaccinate them. But it's debatable whether it has had a big impact," says Raghavan.

The ABC Rules were introduced in 2001 for the first time. Given that it's been more than 22 years since then and there's no substantial difference in the number of dogs on the street yet, Raghavan feels there's room to do more.

Community initiatives

Arun Prasad, animal activist who was part of an independent fact-finding committee formed after the Jalahalli incident, points out that as per the ABC Rules 2023, RWAs and local authorities are responsible for feeding animals.

According to the fact-finding committee, dogs in the area where the recent attack happened had been starving, probably resulting in ferocious behaviour.

While it doesn't take away from the gravity of the incident, it also throws light on the role of communities in taking care animals around them and preventing such causalities.

"From a community perspective, the best way to deal with this is by creating healthier forms of interactions between animals and humans. That can only happen if you start caring for them - one meal a day is all it takes," says Raghavan, who also leads a programme that has been feeding about 500 stray dogs a day for the past 11 years, helping to bring down dog bite incidents in the area to zero.

"When you feed them, you get to know them and build their trust. This, in turn, makes it easier for the authorities to take them for vaccinations and sterilization. This automatically keeps them healthier, less aggressive, and their numbers are in check."

A concerted effort

Suparna Ganguly, co-founder at CUPA and Wildlife Rescue And Rehabilitation Centre, suggests that residents/gated communities must stop thinking of themselves as isolated enclaves and connect to the landscapes that they are embedded in.

"This means taking care of neighbourhoods alongside authorities and this has many interconnected civic issues like waste management, planning feeding stations at jointly agreed locations, and maintenance of hygiene and cleanliness along with the help of appointed manpower."

The authorities meanwhile can offer free or subsidised vaccinations, sterilisations at the various city veterinary centers, and build a public website where all the laws and directives are in one place for easy reference, she suggests.

Responsible feeding

Brinda Nanda Kumar, a practicing advocate at the Karnataka High Court, stresses on the importance feeding community dogs in a responsible manner.

As per the BBMP guidelines, feeding dogs in front of houses, entrances or exits of a society, basement parking area, children's play areas and common areas frequented by the public is to be avoided. The guidelines also instruct to not feed dogs between 11.30 p.m. and 5a.m.

"The dogs of Cubbon Park are a good example of how feeding and caring go together in a public place without having any negative impact on the vast numbers of visitors and people who flood the park," says Ganguly.

Inhabitants of the earth

Experts acknowledge that not everyone can be expected to care for community animals or feed strays.

However, it is also important to not be hostile towards them, harm them or try to relocate them, they say. The existing rules forbid people from harming dogs or relocating them from their territories.

"They are inhabitants of this world and we cannot wish them away. If I remove dogs from my street today, tomorrow new dogs will take their place. So, what we should do is educate our children and people to at least be neutral and ignore these animals if you cannot be kind," Nanda Kumar says.

How to avoid conflicts

All said and done, what if you find a pack of dogs charging towards you?

"Dogs respond to how we respond to them. There's something called 'be like a tree.' If a bunch of dogs are charging towards you, the best thing to do is to not react, but stay still," says Raghavan.

"Don't chase or run from a dog, teach children and elders the freeze pose," Ganguly adds to it.

"If there are congregations of dogs, the reasons need to be ascertained. Invariably, there will be the presence of solid waste or slaughterhouse waste which is an urgency that needs immediate intervention."

Pointing out that people who live in close proximity to wildlife have found ways to co-exist, Nanda Kumar says urban dwellers too need think of practical solutions that protect the interests both animals and people.

"May be morning walkers can go in groups. I have seen people on vehicles slowing down or getting down from the vehicle and pushing it on, and seeing dogs because the sound of the vehicle triggers some of them due to previous bad experiences. A biscuit packet was all it took for my driver to befriend the dogs who previously tried to attack them. Above all, do not do things to provoke them. Let the sleeping dogs lie."

How to avoid conflict with street dogs

Don't

- Stare at dogs
- Tease them
- Scare them with sticks, stones or other objects, or loud sounds
- Disturb a female dog with pups
- Carry food openly when around dogs
- Speed up your vehicle or run

Do

- Learn the 'freeze' pose. Stay calm

BEST FEEDING PRACTICES

- Feed street dogs at multiple designated spots within their territories
- Avoid feeding in front of houses, entrances or exits of societies, hospitals, schools, children's playgrounds, basement areas frequented by the public
- Avoid feeding between 11.30 p.m. and 5 a.m.

BBMP's guidelines on stray feeding and pet management gains traction in apartments following fatal dog attack

Following the Jakkur incident, apartments across the city have made it mandatory for dog lovers to follow these rules, with stricter policies and fines

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Many apartments are now imposing the BBMP's guidelines after an elderly woman was killed in an attack by stray dogs in August near Jakkur.

Back in July this year, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had introduced new guidelines for feeding community animals in public spaces and guidelines for pets in apartments and communities, to ensure their welfare and manage public safety in the city. Many apartments that had not imposed the BBMP's guidelines are now strictly imposing them, after an elderly woman was killed after nearly a dozen stray dogs attacked her in August near Jakkur.

In the guidelines issued by the BBMP in July, out of the eleven points mentioned, the civic body said that stray dogs were not allowed to be fed between 11.30 p.m. and 5 a.m. on roads or common areas. Resident welfare associations (RWAs) and apartment owners had to ensure their bylaws do not harm domestic animals, enforce existing animal welfare laws, and allow pets in common areas and lifts, requiring leash but not muzzle.

Following the Jakkur incident, apartments across the city have made it mandatory for pet owners and dog lovers to follow these rules, with stricter policies and fines. "Now, any resident with a pet must register their details in the gate approval app used for communication and security purposes at our apartment. It is also mandatory to include vaccination details of the pet in the app, along with other documents," said an apartment owner in Yelahanka who did not wish to be named.

"The association has also announced that if a resident is found violating pet policies, they will receive a violation notice. Post the first notice, for further violations the resident will be fined a penalty of ₹500 and ₹1,000 further for an instance of violation."

Pranav Sreenath, a resident of an apartment in R.R. Nagar, said that his RWA too has rehauled the pet policy following BBMP guidelines. "We were not allowed to have pets in our apartment, but after the new guidelines issued by the BBMP in July, we are allowed to have pets. However, other guidelines on the safety of pets and residents were not strictly followed. The recent stray dog incident has thrown light on the guidelines again and the RWA has underlined them."

"Feeding stray dogs around the apartment was always an issue and attracted many strays into our common areas, bothering delivery boys and children playing at the premises. A week ago, our association advised residents to feed stray dogs only during the advised time by the BBMP and outside the apartment premises. Now dogs entering the premises and chasing residents or visitors has reduced drastically," Sreenath added.

Meanwhile, the Bangalore Apartment's Federation (BAF), which has around 1,300 apartment associations under it, says that the BBMP guidelines have resolved many conflicts between residents, "There have many instances of conflict between pet owners, feeders of community animals, and other residents in apartments. The guidelines issued by the BBMP resolved many issues and have brought in a better understanding of stray feeding in the community. Recently we also had the entire BBMP animal husbandry department and its Special Commissioner address members of BAF and give a detailed presentation of the guidelines," said Vikram Rai, president, BAF. Since then, the residents themselves have formed a group, fixing a time and space for the strays to be fed. "If there are strays that are getting very violent or aggressive, the residents call the BBMP and ask for help," he added.

Additional guidelines

Rai said that along with the BBMP guidelines, the BAF issued an additional pet guidelines to its members, putting together guidelines by the Animal Welfare Board of India, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, to form a pet guidelines for BAF. "In the guidelines we have a detailed report on the rights of stray animals and pets, legal framework and what the Indian Constitution says about pet ownership, guidelines for apartment associations regarding pets and community animals, and guidelines for feeders of community animals in apartment complexes," Rai added.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 12, 1974

State to Seek Curbs on Coarse Grain Movement

Dharwar, Sept. 11: Karnataka is to seek reimposition of the ban on inter-State movement of coarse grains, especially jowar, at the forthcoming chief ministers conference. Disclosing this here yesterday, the Chief Minister Mr. Devaraj Urs told pressmen that the State Government on its own could not take any decision on restricting the movement of jowar since it was a central policy.

"If it was in my hands, I would have done it long ago", he remarked while replying to a question.

Mr. Ghorpade, Finance Minister, who was also present said there was likely to be a general shortfall in the Kharif production in the State due to failure of monsoon during July. This was causing anxiety to the Government.

Relief Work in Drought-Hit Areas: Government Assurance

Bangalore, Sept. 11: The Minister for Social Welfare, Mr. Rachiah, acting leader of the Legislative Council said in the House today that the Government would initiate forthwith measures for starting relief work and digging of wells in the drought affected and flood-hit regions in the State.

Replying to a discussion on the failure of rains and scarcity conditions prevailing in several parts of the State, Mr. Rachiah, who was replying on behalf of the Public Works Minister, said that his Department had released Rs. 130 crores for digging of wells in areas where there was scarcity of drinking water.

GIG GUIDE

This weekend the city plays host to a range of bands coming in from all over India

Let's get loud

Anurag Tagat

Modern Machines Volume 02

September 15, 6:30 pm onwards
White Lotus Club, HSR Layout
Entry: ₹899 via Skillboxes.com

Metal is arriving by the truckload this week, for the second edition of gig series Modern Machines. The lineup includes all local metal and rock-informed bands, with top billing going to Space Is All We Have, the alt-rock/nu-metal informed band who have been around since 2014.

Supporting the likes of international bands Tesseract and Karnivool at their recent India shows, the description for the event says, "They explore existential lyrical themes combined with a powerful live set making it an aural and visually mesmerising experience for the audience."

Another big draw at the event includes modern metallers Ksetravid. They released their single 'The Third Eye' earlier this year and are working up to a debut album. An event description about the band reads, "Conceptually, the band writes about things that reflect on embracing individuality, a process to know oneself. Sonically, their music is a blend of brutal, progressive and melodic aspects of sub-genres of metal with lyrical content highlighting religion, political and social evils which everyone can relate to."

The lineup extends to include New Delhi prog band Coordinates, Bengaluru-based post-hardcore band Frostcraft, progressive/alt rock and metal act Sapien Error and metalcore band Hope Awake.

Purple Cassette

September 14, 8:30 pm onwards
Bira 91 Taproom, Koramangala
Entry: ₹349 via Skillboxes.com, plus ₹500 cover charge at the door

New Delhi-based band, Purple Cassette are an indie-rock group formed in 2018 in New York City by singer-guitarist Ishan Kumar, currently based in New Delhi. Joined by bassist Siddharth Rajan and forming the core duo of the band, they released their debut EP *Thinking Ahead of Time* in 2023, offering their rock-fuelled take on identity, confidence and more.

After performing on home ground and touring Shillong and Guwahati, they are traveling to Bengaluru with drummer Dhruv Sarker and guitarist-keyboardist Shubhayan.

The band says in a statement, "Purple Cassette is all set to bring their explosive and energetic punk rock sound to the Bira Taproom in Koramangala. Influenced by bands like The Strokes, Velvet Underground and Queens of the Stone Age, Purple Cassette aims to combine the brash manic energy of garage and punk rock with the smooth synth sounds of the 60s and 70s. Expect a high energy show, with catchy riffs, and grooves that you can't help but move to. It's going to get loud!"

Hanumankind

September 13, 6 pm onwards
Jayamahal Palace Hotel
Entry: ₹1,999, ₹3,699 (for two), ₹6,999 (group of four) via Skillboxes.com

The first solo show for Kerala-origin, US-raised rapper Hanumankind after the success of his globally-charting song 'Big Dawgs' is aptly taking place in Bengaluru, the city where he has thrived. Performing at an open-air show in Jayamahal marks a significant step up for Hanumankind, who is also working on more songs that are most likely to form his debut album. Rising in acclaim as well as fame since 'Big Dawgs' which producer Kalmi released in July, fans can also expect songs such as 'Go To Sleep', 'Damnson', 'Southside' and more. In a previous interview about the success of 'Big Dawgs', Hanumankind has said, "I'm grateful for how everything rolled out. I think we turned some heads with this one. Raised some eyebrows and got them looking, because by its reception, we got the whole world in the comments."

Armengou & Macià Duo

September 13 and 14, 9:30 pm onwards
Windmills, Whitefield
Entry: ₹3,000 (seating), ₹1,500 (standing) via windmills-india.com

A freewheeling jazz journey across the world is in store at Windmills this weekend, with two nights featuring the Alba Armengou & Ramon Macià Duo.

With Armengou on trumpet and vocals adding to the jazz experience, Macià takes on piano, guitar and vocal duties as part of the duo. A description for the event adds, "The duo invites audiences on a vibrant musical journey that spans across the globe, exploring sounds and rhythms from Cuba, Brazil, USA, Mexico, Argentina, and more. Their performances are a tribute to the beauty of musical diversity, seamlessly blending various styles that resonate deeply with their artistic identities."

For their performance in the city, the duo will bring their unique interpretations of music by renowned composers ranging from Brazilian artists such as Djavan, Mart'nália to Mexico's Natalia Lafourcade and American jazz greats Ray Charles and Fats Waller.

CITYBEATS

Golden girls

ONGOING
Mysore Saree Udyog has launched a traditional collection of saris for Onam. The saris come in the traditional combinations of white and gold, and white and green. These weaves are crafted in Mysore silk and the golden motifs come in the traditional Kasavu style.
Available at all the Mysore Udyog outlets in the city.

Fit for a king

SEPTEMBER 14, 15
Dig into Onam specials at One8 Commune Bangalore. Curated by chef Agnibh Mudi of True Palate Hospitality Pvt Ltd, the menu will be available for lunch. Dishes that will be served include traditional specials such as upperi, Kerala red rice, rasam, poriyal, pachadi, ghee podi and payasam.
At One8 Commune, Kasturba Road.

Of man and machine

SEPTEMBER 15
Watch Nishita Jain's film *Paat Katha* (*The Golden Thread*), a "homage and an observation of the last vestiges of the industrial revolution impacted by the forces of economic change that illustrates the relationship of man to machine". The screening is organised by Vikalp Bengaluru and Bangalore International Centre (BIC).
At BIC, visit https://vikalpbengaluru.weebly.com

In search of the saucy siren

Ruth Dhanaraj

Attitude sans apology Sharanya Ramprakash with yesteryear theatre artiste Rameshwari Verma. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

We all know a sassy, smart talking, hard to please, tough as nails lady – the favourite aunt, elder cousin or family friend who is far "too cool" to care about being politically correct. Well, the theatre has had its fair share them and the Kannada play, *Project Darling* throws them into the limelight once again.

The character of Khanavali Chenni, whose every utterance was loaded with clever innuendoes and double entendres, was popular in Kannada theatre. In *Project Darling*, director and playwright Sharanya Ramprakash looks at the role of these women in the face of unrelenting misogyny.

According to Sharanya, the play came out of a research project for the India Foundation for the Arts. "As modern day women, we still find life suffocating; I wondered what feisty personalities did to subvert the system in those days?" *Project Darling* is about female sexuality at the crossroads of culture and censorship, and how these women circumvented strictures.

"I wanted to trace my professional ancestry as a theatre person and I toured Karnataka meeting vamps, villains and comedians of the stage. This play is constructed out of that research and includes bytes, photos and personal stories of women of the stage before me."

Sharanya also explored what women were allowed to say on stage and their play on words. "The way words were used questions notions of vulgarity. Over the years, the dialogues for characters such as Khanavali Chenni have made a literary contribution to Kannada, though it often isn't acknowledged."

During the course of her research, Sharanya met with theatre artistes from Hubli, Dharwad, Ranibennhur, Gubbi, Tumkur, Mysore and Bengaluru. "The oldest was 88-year-old R Manjulamma from the Sri Nataka Mandali. That troupe comprised a group of women who essayed male roles. And as a company, they delivered quite a few hit productions."

The plot of *Project Darling* revolves around five modern day stage actors' bid to locate Khanavali Chenni. "This iconic character is outside the dichotomy of society-approved, gender based roles of wife, sister, mother and daughter. She belongs only to herself."

It is confrontational, Sharanya says. "*Project Darling* specifically examines the female gaze on our bodies and desire. It also is comical because the women we researched had a blast. They shied away from victimhood, gave as good as they got, and had a grand time doing it."

Project Darling will be staged at Ranga Shankara on September 13 at 7.30pm. Tickets on Bookmyshow

Welcoming Maveli with sadya specials in the city

Nidhi Adlakha

Royal repast Parippu payasam (left) is one of the many dishes served in a sadya. GETTY IMAGES / ISTOCK PHOTO

Kappa Chakka Kandhari
Chef Regi Mathews' restaurant is back with a range of offerings for Onam. If you are looking at dining in, their sadya (₹1,390) is available at St. John's Auditorium in Koramangala (September 14 and 15) for lunch. Delicacies include cheru pazham, chena chops, avial, thoran, and a range of condiments.

For takeaways, try the Onasadhya Festive Meal in A Box (available on September 14, 15) that comprises 26 traditional vegetarian dishes. Ideal for five people, it is available only for lunch and priced at ₹6,750.

Fancy just the payasams? The ada pradhaman, chakka pradhaman, palada, and idichu pizhinja payasam. are available in one litre take-away packs (₹900) and 500 ml boxes (₹450) through advance booking only.
Details on kckonam.com

Anju's Cafe, Ranga Shankara
For Anju Sudharshan, who has been preparing sadyas for over 20 years, her one-day culinary affair will be hosted at the city's popular theatre space. It commemorates the tenth day of the Thiruvonam festivities, and guests can savour a traditional feast complete with 32 items such as puli inji, pachadi, kootu curry, kalan, kichadi, thoran, and payasams.
On September 22, at 12 pm and 130 pm. ₹1,200 per head. To book, call 9845036605.

Coracle Cafe @ Bangalore International Centre
Alongside traditional offerings (costing ₹1,699) such as the mezhukkupuratti, avial, olan, erisherry, pineapple pachadi, vellarikka pachadi and thoran, the restaurant has treats for meat eaters too. The non-vegetarian sadya (₹2,199) has classics like fish fry, beef ullarthu, prawn fry and chicken fry.
On September 15, 12-1.30 pm and 2-3.30 pm. For enquiries, call 96116 52064

Salt Mango Tree, Indira Nagar
The festivities that began on September 9 feature a grand meal (upwards of ₹950) of over 20 dishes including parippu, sambar, rasam, inji puli, thoran, payasams, and other curries. They are also taking orders for sadya boxes (upwards of ₹1,000) and payasams (₹799 per litre),
Until September 17, 11 am to 5 pm. Details on saltmangotree.co.in

Moplah's, Koramangala
At the newly-opened outlet in the city, guests can relish a sadya featuring 30+ dishes including a mix vegetable thoran, mathanga errissery, masala curry, avial, a range of pickles such as vadukapuli achar, kadumanga achar, garlic and raisin pickle, and payasams.
On September 15 from 11 am to 4 pm. ₹1,499 for dine-in and ₹2,499 for takeaway for two.

Excess fee: RGUHS restricts admissions to two nursing colleges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In response to complaints from students about excess fees being demanded by certain institutions, the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) has suspended admission to B.Sc Nursing courses at two private colleges.

Based on recommendations from the Directorate of Medical Education, RGUHS has restricted admissions to the Oxford College of Nursing Science in Bengaluru and the New Navodaya Institute of Nursing in Mandya for the 2024-25 academic year.

RGUHS has also advised the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) to remove these colleges from the nursing seat matrix with immediate effect. An official order from RGUHS states: "In light of complaints from students regarding excessive fees being demanded by colleges for B.Sc nursing seats allotted through KEA, the Directorate of Medical Education has instructed us to withdraw the affiliation of these colleges and inform KEA to remove their names from the admission list."

RGUHS sources confirmed that students admitted to these colleges will be transferred to other institutions. Despite recent warnings from the Admission Overseeing Committee about taking action against colleges demanding excess fees, some institutions have continued to exploit students.

Kerala govt. all set to host Finance Ministers' conclave

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to open conclave today, which will see participation by Ministers of Telangana, T.N., Karnataka, Kerala and Punjab besides leading economists and planning experts

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

> Ideation with regard to presenting the development and financial issues faced by the States before the 16th Finance Commission is the main aim of the conclave
>
> **K.N. BALAGOPAL**
> Kerala Finance Minister

Centre-State financial relations, grievances regarding cuts in allocation, and the need for a united front to secure a fair share in the 16th Finance Commission will take centre stage in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday at a one-day conclave to be attended by Finance Ministers of four southern States and Punjab.

Kerala, which is organising the Conclave of Finance Ministers, sees it as a platform for States ruled by BJP rivals to thrash out their positions with respect to the 16th Finance Commission headed by Arvind Panagariya.

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu and Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal will attend the conference along with leading economists and planning experts.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is scheduled to open the conclave at Hotel Hyatt Regency here at 10 a.m.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan will also address the conclave.

Mr. Balagopal said the conclave is being organised against the backdrop of the Union government's stance that contradicts the spirit of fiscal federalism and sustainable Centre-State relations.

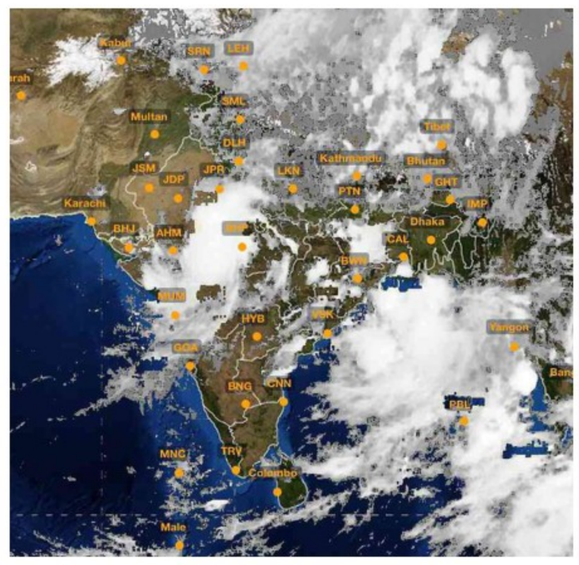
Preserving the sanctity of tax devolution, the Centre's increasing reliance on cesses, Finance Commission norms for the division of resources, and surcharges and States' grievances concerning borrowing limits are expected to come up in the discussions.

Mr. Balagopal said a "vertical and horizontal" imbalance persists in the transfer of resources.

"Kerala is taking the lead to organise this conclave in the context of the challenges that fiscal federalism faces today. Ideation with regard to presenting the development and financial issues faced by the States before the 16th Finance Commission is the primary aim of the conclave. A report of the 15th Finance Commission has observed that States shouldered 62.4% of the aggregate expenditure, while 63% of the revenues goes to the Centre. States should receive at least 50%," Mr. Balagopal said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Rajsathan, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh and central Maharashtra. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5	35.6	27.4	Kozhikode	41	33.5	24.8
Ahmedabad	27	30.7	26.2	Kurnool	0.6	33.6	23.2
Aizawl	0.4	33.3	23.9	Lucknow	44	31.6	24.6
Allahabad	2	34.0	27.7	Madurai	—	39.3	27.1
Bengaluru	—	29.2	20.2	Mangaluru	2	30.0	24.4
Bhopal	62	25.9	23.0	Mumbai	9	31.3	25.4
Bhubaneswar	3.9	34.4	27.2	Mysuru	—	30.0	20.0
Chandigarh	1	36.4	25.5	New Delhi	6	32.6	23.0
Chennai	—	36.0	28.4	Patna	—	34.3	28.5
Coimbatore	—	32.4	23.4	Port Blair	6.9	29.5	26.0
Dehradun	34	34.2	23.4	Puducherry	—	34.8	27.4
Gangtok	10	24.9	18.8	Pune	4.4	28.9	21.7
Goa	6	30.0	25.4	Raipur	4.2	30.0	26.0
Guwahati	—	35.0	26.7	Ranchi	47	29.8	23.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	2.7	24.2	17.5
Hyderabad	—	30.4	22.8	Shimla	—	27.0	19.5
Imphal	0.4	32.7	23.3	Srinagar	—	30.0	14.8
Jaipur	65	30.8	24.0	Thiruvananthapuram	5	31.7	24.3
Kochi	25	30.2	24.2	Tiruchi	—	37.0	27.0
Kohima	1	27.2	19.0	Vijayawada	—	34.0	26.4
Kolkata	2.2	35.0	27.5	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	18	18	28	73	87	
Bengaluru	6	24	102	49	51	
Chennai	16	2	29	44	90	
Delhi	14	64	45	74	132	
Hyderabad	22	16	33	50	71	
Kolkata	6	36	72	25	58	
Lucknow	9	7	23	58	71	
Mumbai	2	15	35	54	86	
Pune	8	28	49	29	30	
Visakhapatnam	9	40	32	71	94	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 246 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sasaram, Bihar recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Seven die of asphyxiation as mini-van overturns

The Hindu Bureau
KOVVUR

Seven workers died on the spot, reportedly due to asphyxiation, after the mini-van that was carrying raw cashew nuts overturned and fell on them, at Chinnayagudem village under Devarapalli police station limits in East Godavari district early on Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Reddi Satyanarayana, 45, D. Venkata Rao, 40, Bokka Prasad, 32, P. China Musalayya, 35, K. Krishna, K. Sattipandu, and Tadi Krishna, all belonging to Tadimalla village of Nidadavole mandal in East Godavari district, said Kovvuru DSP G. Deva Kumar.

All the eight workers were reportedly sitting on top of the load. As many as 10 workers were heading from T. Narasapuram mandal to Nidadavole in the van.

The bodies were sent to the Kovvur Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination.

Karnataka Chief Minister plans conclave to discuss unfair devolution of Central taxes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said he had written to the Chief Ministers of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, and Punjab regarding the unfair devolution of taxes by the Union government.

In his post on X, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "I have invited them to a conclave in Bengaluru to collectively deliberate on the issues of fiscal federalism at a juncture when the Finance Commission needs to make a directional shift and create incentives for growth & better tax mobilization".

'Unjust approach'

The Chief Minister said, "States with higher GSDP per capita, like Karnataka and others, are being penalised for their economic performance, receiving disproportionately lower tax allocations. This unjust approach undermines the spirit of cooperative federalism and threatens the financial autonomy of progressive States".

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)
Paschim Boragaon, Garchuk, Guwahati-781035

Advt. No. 510 Date :11.09.2024

IASST, Guwahati invites applications for admission under institutional JRF programme for the year 2024-25. Application should be submitted online at **https://iasst.gov.in** within 15 days of publication of this advertisement.

Please refer to the detailed advertisement published in the web site **https://iasst.gov.in.**

Registrar,
IASST

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 42/2024 Dated: 06.09.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L8246275	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Test Rig for Testing of Valves of E-70 Brake Equipment of FTRTIPL Make for WAG9HC/WAP7 Electrical Locomotives. **(Qty.: 1 No.)**

Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 30.09.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/412/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
(LOST AND FOUND)
I **Mr. M.A. Vinu Shankar** landlord of the immovable House L-6 type L, Jeevan Bhima Nagar, HAC 3rd stage, Bangalore allotted vide Document 3568/9192, page no:209-216, volume 3218, book no:1 dated 09.01.1992 by the LIC of India with the possession and loan no due certificate issued by the LIC of Indian during his personal work in Bangalore on 31.08.2014 and the said documents "no loan due" and possession certificate are found it may be handed over to the undersigned.

M.A.Vinu Shankar
45, Chinna Mudali Street, Pudupet, Gudiyattam, Vellore District-632602.
(M1) 9841296888, (M2) 8056199930,
e-mail: vinusmech@yahoo.com
Bangalore
Date: 11.09.2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/51 Dated : 02.09.2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Power supply arrangements of Escalators - 14 sets (28 Nos.) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 25,53,600/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 23-09-2024**

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/52 Dated : 03.09.2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Mysuru Division - Construction of Gate lodge with toilet at LC No. 10, 17, 19, 36, 39, 40, 41, 45, 55, 85, 114 and 125 in Mysuru - Arsikere Section, LC No. 229 and 238 in Harihar - Karajgi section and LC No. 3, 25, 38 in Birur - Shivamogga Town section and LC No. 77 in Sampige Road - Arsikere section (Total - 18 Nos.)	Rs. 15,21,128/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 24-09-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/407/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Mysuru
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), Mahadevapura Zone, K.R.Pura
No. BBMP/MDZ/EE/ELE/TEND/05/2024-25 Date : 11-09-2024
INVITATION FOR RE-TENDER
(Single / Two Cover System) (Through KPP Portal Only)
Executive Engineer (Elect), Mahadevapura Zone, invites Item Rate Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000 and 2017, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike/KPWD/CPWD/Railways/ MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central / State government organisations on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, for the work of POW 2023-24 as detailed in the table.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	M & R and replacement of street lights poles cables etc of parks coming under Mahadevapura Constituency of Mahadevapura Zone (Reserved for ST). **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 25,00,000/- **Earnest Money Deposit :** Rs. 25,000/-

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on or before **12-09-2024. (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before **16:00 hours** on **18-09-2024. (3)** Technical Bid shall be opened on **19-09-2024 at 16:30 hrs** and commercial Bid shall be opened on or after **20-09-2024 at 16:30 hrs.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), Mahadevapura Zone

CSIR–CENTRAL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Mahatma Gandhi Avenue, Durgapur - 713 209 (West Bengal)
No.: 8/2/2018(1)-Rct. Date: 10.09.2024
Advertisement No. 05/2018
Recruitment to the post of Technical Officer (Group-III) against this Institute Advertisement No.05/2018- Schedule of document verification – reg.
This is for information of all concerned that a detailed **Document Verification & Biometric Capturing have been scheduled during 07th to 28th October, 2024 at CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur, West Bengal** for the candidates provisionally eligible for Trade Test for the **position of Technical Officer (Group-III)** against this Institute Advertisement No.05/2018 as per the Annexure-I of the Institute Notice of even No. dtd. 01.12.2020 and 20.05.2021. Therefore, all the eligible candidates are hereby informed to appear mandatorily for the document verification and biometric capturing as per the schedule. **For detailed notification and schedule of the document verification, the candidates are advised to visit the official website of the CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur (www.cmeri.res.in).**
Administrative Officer
/cmeri.res.in /CSIR CMERI CSIRCMERIDgp /csir_cmeri /csircmeri.blogspot.com

TOWN PANCHAYAT GUTTAL
TP/GTL/SBM 2.0/2024-25 Date : 30-08-2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Municipal Act 1964 Karnataka Public on behalf of the Governor of the State A per Procurement Transparency Act 2000 As per Sun 2024-25 Clean India Mission City 2.00 Grants for 90.77 Lakhs Estimated Paper Prepared E-Procurement Tenders from Eligible Conractors in Single Envelop / Two-Envelop Mode KW-1 tenders are invited from qualified grade contractors registered with the Locopayogi Department and e-procurement portal for e-procurement tender documents through departmental website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in / to apply online on the date mentioned below.
Last Date : 30-08-2024 to 13-09-2024 Time only : 4:30 PM
Tender Opening Date : 17-09-2024 11:30 am or on such day as may be indicated further
(E-PROCUREMENT)

Sl. No.	INDENT No.	ESTIMATE VALUE	EMD AMOUNT	Reservation
1	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT28240	139000.00	3475.00	ST
2	DMA/024-25/EL/WORK_ INDENT28640	621000.00	15525.00	GEN
3	DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK_ INDENT28536	718000.00	17950.00	GEN
4	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT28423	252000.00	6300.00	GEN
5	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT28416	803000.00	20075.00	GEN
6	DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK_ INDENT28246	863000.00	21575.00	SC
7	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT28374	168000.00	4200.00	SC
8	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT28223	3171000.00	63420.00	SC
9	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT28446	306000.00	7650.00	GEN
10	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_ INDENT28521	971000.00	24275.00	GEN
11	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT28414	1065000.00	26625.00	GEN
	TOTAL	9077000.00	211070.00	

Sd/- **CHIEF OFFICER** Town Panchayat Guttal

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA MONITORING & EVALUATION AUTHORITY
#541, 5th Floor, 2nd Gate, M.S. Building, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001, Phone: 080 -22353938, 22032561,
e-mail: ceokmea@karnataka.gov.in, kmeagok@karnataka.gov.in
Website: www.kmea.karnataka.gov.in
No: KMEA 20 PROC 2024 Date: 11/09/2024
NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Monitoring and Evaluation Authority (KMEA) is an established Society under Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960 under the Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department, Government of Karnataka. It is involved in the evaluation of various Government schemes and thereby offering useful insights to departments about programme implementation and usefulness of the schemes.
KMEA invites applications from organisations registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal and, involved in research/evaluation activities and the like, to undertake the following evaluation studies for, and, on behalf of KMEA.
Total No. of Evaluation Studies: 9

Sl. No	Set	No. of Studies	Uploaded date	Last date submission of tender	Last date for queries	Portal address
1	I	5	05.09.2024	25.09.2024 before 17.30 hrs	**13.09.2024 before 17.30 hrs**	http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
2	II	4	11.09.2024	30.09.2024 before 17.30 hrs	**25.09.2024 before 17.30 hrs**	

Tender details may be seen on the above website
Queries regarding the tender notification may please be sent by e-mail only to **ceokmea@karnataka.gov.in**or **kmeagok@karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Chief Evaluation Officer
DIPR/CP/JA/1957/2024-25 Karnataka Monitoring and Evaluation Authority.

झारखंड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला
शुद्धि पत्र
एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गुमला के अन्तर्गत निकाली गयी ई–निविदा आमंत्रण संख्याः–10/2024-25/ RWD/W/EE/GUMLA दिनांक–27.08.2024, PR- 333816 (Rural Works Department)24-25 (D) द्वारा प्रकाशित हुआ था को अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्ध किया जाता है।
ह0/–कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,
PR 335447 (Rural Work Department)24-25*D कार्य प्रमंडल गुमला

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, our client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner. All persons having any claims against the Schedule Property or any part thereof are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office within **07 days** from the date of publication hereof, failing which our clients shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the lands situated at **Kempalinganapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded on:

Sl. No.	Sy. No	Extent	EAST	WEST	NORTH	SOUTH
1.	14/1	13 G	Sy.No.20/5	Sy.No.14/2	Sy.No.19	Remaining land in Sy.No.14/1
2.	14/1	13 G	Sy.No.20/5	Sy.No.14/2	Remaining land in Sy.No.14/1	Remaining land in Sy.No.14/1
3.	14/1	25 G	Sy.No.11	Sy.No.14/2	Remaining land in Sy.No.14/1	Remaining land in Sy.No.14/1
4.	15/6	26 G	Remaining land in Sy. No. 15/6	Remaining land in Sy. No. 15/6	Sy.No. 15/4 & 15/5	Sy.No. 14
5.	20/5	19.08 G	Sy. No. 22	Sy. No. 20/3 & 14	Sy. No. 20/4	Road & Sy.No 11/1

M/s. Jury Legal Solutions, Advocates
No. 8, 14th Main 14th Cross, 4th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102. Ph: 7760671264/9902195500/9844897355
Dated this 12th day of September 2024 Bangalore

Can Fin Homes Ltd
(Sponsor: CANARA BANK)
KORAMANGALA BRANCH
586, 2nd Floor, 80ft Rd, 8th Block, Near Police Station, Opp. Bethany School Koramangala, Bangalore-560095
koramangala@canfinhomes.com
Tel: 080-41112879, Mob:7625079131/7625079457
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[proviso to rule 9(1)]
SALE NOTICE for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Koramangala Branch, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **01/10/2024,** for recovery of **Rs. 38,12,295/-** (RupeesThirty Eight LakhTwelve ThousandTwo Hundred and Ninety FiveOnly) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from **Mr. Ravi T R and Mrs. Kamala K V (Borrowers) andMr. Ramakrishnaiah (Guarantor)**, as on 11/09/2024, together with further interest and other charges thereon. .
The reserve price will be **Rs.64,00,000/-** (Rupees Sixty Four Lakhs Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.6,40,000/-** (Rupees Six Lakhs Fourty Thousand Only)
Description of the Immovable Property
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 141, V.P Khatha No.7/172, Spoorthy Layout, Herohalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. Measuring East to West 45 Feet, North to South 36 Feet totally measuring 1620 Sq.Ft. and Bounded on East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Property No.140, South by : Property No.142.
Encumbrances : There is a sale agreement Registered in favour of Third part, subsequent to the mortgage created in favour of Can Fin Homes Ltd., as the same is not binding on Can Fin Homes Ltd., as the mortgage created in favour of Can Fin Homes Ltd., is prior to the said transaction.
The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd.,(www.canfinhomes.com). Please refer to the following link https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx.
Place: Bangalore
Date: 11.09.2024
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,

Public accounts

The PAC must assert its role as an instrument of parliamentary oversight

Over the last decade, the Central government, with a comfortable majority in Parliament, has evaded meaningful parliamentary accountability. Now, however, the BJP heads a coalition that is dependent on allies, and the Opposition is stronger. The changed situation is an opportunity for the renewal of parliamentary oversight over the executive's functioning. The proactive beginning of the newly constituted Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a case in point. On September 2, it notified 161 subjects it had picked for deliberations during its term, most of them based on CAG reports. The panel has picked five subjects *suo motu* – reforms in the banking and insurance sectors; review of the implementation of centrally sponsored welfare schemes; policy measures underway for transition in the energy sector; performance review of regulatory bodies established by Acts of Parliament, and the levy and regulation of fees, tariffs, user charges, on public infrastructure and other public utilities. The PAC, headed by Congress Member of Parliament K.C. Venugopal, has made use of the rule which clearly states that its functions can go "beyond the formality of expenditure to its wisdom, faithfulness, and economy". This rule has been used only rarely and to make a political point. Though the subjects picked by the PAC have political undertones, the overarching public interest involved is unmistakable.

The constitutional scheme envisages that Parliament controls the finances of the country. Any tax may be imposed only by passing legislation. All expenditure of the government needs prior sanction from Parliament through Appropriation Bills. The CAG is a constitutional office that examines and audits the financial functioning of all government departments. All its reports are sent to the PAC, one of the oldest and most significant parliamentary panels. Government measures that pick the winners of the economy have led to serious allegations of crony capitalism in recent years. The government has refused to investigate the serious charges against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi P. Buch and the Adani Group, which controls seven Indian airports. Public sector banks and regulatory bodies have a lot to answer for. The BJP has already opposed any PAC investigation into these questions. The 22-member PAC has 13 members from the BJP-led NDA and nine Opposition MPs, including four from the Congress. The committee's assertive posturing could be undermined by the ruling coalition's majority. The PAC, and the Department Related Standing Committees, many of which are yet to be constituted, should assert their role as instruments of parliamentary authority and the enforcer of the executive's accountability to the people.

One-man rule

Maduro must realise socialist rhetoric is no substitute for popular support

Venezuela's disputed July 28 presidential election and the subsequent crackdown on the Opposition by the regime of President Nicolás Maduro have deepened the political divisions in the oil-rich country. According to the National Electoral Council, Mr. Maduro, President since 2013 upon the death of Hugo Chavez, won 51%, while his main opponent Edmundo González secured 43%. But the Opposition claims that the tally sheets issued by electronic voting machines, suggested Mr. González's hands down victory. The Opposition claim was backed by the U.S. and other western countries, while Mr. Maduro got confirmation of his victory from his hand-picked Supreme Court. Rejecting calls to quit, he has unleashed the crackdown. At least 24 people have been killed and 2,400 arrested in relation to the protests since the results, according to the Human Rights Watch. Last week, police surrounded the Argentine embassy in Caracas where some Opposition figures had taken refuge. Mr. Maduro had already sacked Argentina's diplomatic mission after its President, Javier Milei, supported Mr. González. Mr. González, a retired diplomat who faces charges for incitement of protests left for Spain on September 7.

The election has not been fair from the beginning. The Opposition's original pick to counter Mr. Maduro was María Corina Machado, a former lawmaker. After she was banned by the comptroller-general, a Maduro ally, from holding public office, Mr. González was chosen later. The election process itself was disputed, and three weeks after the vote was held, the authorities are yet to release results by individual polling stations. Mr. González's flight could be a temporary victory for Mr. Maduro, who has tightened his grip over every branch of the state, but his challenges are far from over. Venezuela, which is also under U.S. sanctions, has seen rapid economic decline and a rise in extreme poverty. About 7.7 million people have fled in recent years amid hyperinflation, economic contraction and scarcity for food and medicine. Mr. Maduro has also seen growing regional pressure, with even left-wing governments of Brazil, Chile and Colombia urging him to publish the full results. The tensions between Venezuela and Brazil came out in the open when the Maduro regime revoked Brasilia's authorisation to manage and represent the Argentine embassy. With his legitimacy in question, Mr. Maduro, grappling with a sanctions-hit, mismanaged economy, a divided polity at home, and growing isolation abroad, is behaving like a dictator. He has turned Chavez's popular Bolivarian project into a one-man rule with socialist rhetoric. This allows him to cling on to power, for now, but at a great cost to the people of Venezuela.

Instability and uncertainty stalk Bangladesh

M.K. Narayanan

a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

It is often mentioned that the fate of individuals and nations hang by a slender thread. On August 5 this year, even as Muhammad Yunus (the current head/chief adviser of the interim government in Bangladesh) was to be arraigned before a court of law for certain alleged actions against the State, the then Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, was compelled to resign and flee the country to neighbouring India. This was a sequel to several weeks of protests over a 'quota system', reserving a percentage of all government jobs to descendants of 'freedom' fighters involved in Bangladesh's 'war of independence'. The government's heavy-handed measures to suppress the student demonstrations had led to a groundswell of protest against the government, and Sheikh Hasina herself. Even after the proposal for the 'quota system' was withdrawn, massive protests continued, signalling the depth of anger against the government, and Sheikh Hasina personally, compelling her to flee.

Bangladesh currently has an interim government headed by Mr. Yunus, an economist, which has the backing of the Army, and with students functioning as the 'storm-troopers'. In quick succession, the Chief Justice, the central bank governor, a host of university vice-chancellors and other key personnel were compelled to step down. The main charge levelled against Sheikh Hasina is that she had become a virtual dictator, trampling on the civil liberties of citizens and embarking on high handed actions against her political opponents.

Still early days but much can happen

It would be invidious to characterise Sheikh Hasina's ouster as a victory for 'democratic forces'. No doubt, it has some of the characteristics of the 'Prague Spring' that rocked Czechoslovakia in the mid-20th century, but the world does not have to be reminded of how the revolt was snuffed out within a short time frame. There may be no equivalent of the 'Warsaw Pact Powers' (which ended the Prague students' revolt) on the horizon in Bangladesh as of now. Today's major powers, essentially the United States and China, however, have a huge stake in how matters turn out and are not averse to meddling in Bangladesh.

What happened in Bangladesh does not conform to a classical 'colour' revolution instigated by the U.S. or the West, but it has provided scope for the 'Big Powers' to meddle in the affairs of Bangladesh, anxious to secure a base for themselves in South Asia, as part of their larger designs.

Much will depend on the turn of events. In the first flush of exuberance and anger against Sheikh Hasina, vandalism seemed to reach its apogee, with images of Sheikh Hasina and even the statue of the nation's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, becoming targets of riotous mobs. The position of Mr. Yunus itself appears tenuous at this stage, and it is uncertain how long the Army would support the present arrangement. Pressure from political parties to hold early elections is already evident, and if and when elections are announced, it could shatter the surface calm.

> The troubles in Bangladesh are by no means over and India may need new strategies to deal with the situation to its east

Areas of danger

The real concern is whether the 'democracy deficit', which Sheikh Hasina helped perpetuate to overcome political obstacles, can be offset democratically, or whether it would lead to another round of violent events. A worrying aspect is the increasing role of Islamist parties in Bangladesh which, in recent years, has become a potent force. An India intent on maintaining a balance between religion and politics would find the growing presence of radical Islamist entities a potent danger.

What India can at present possibly hope for is that the people of Bangladesh would continue to remember India's role in the early 1970s, which led to the creation of an independent state of Bangladesh. Also that any and future governments would display the same degree of warmth as the outgoing Sheikh Hasina regime. While many in India have not forgotten the 'dark days' of the early 1970s – when India had to fight a war with Pakistan on the one hand and cope with a hostile U.S. at another level, intent on detaching India from Russia – so as to bring about the independence of East Pakistan (later to become Bangladesh), India can only hope that similar sentiments still prevail in Bangladesh, notwithstanding the degree of hostility towards Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League.

For its part, India must acknowledge, and be grateful for, the support extended by Bangladesh over the years in dealing with militant groups belonging to India's northeast, that had sought sanctuary there and become a scourge for India's security establishment. Under Sheikh Hasina these militants could no longer find sanctuary in Bangladesh. A prolonged period of uncertainty in Bangladesh following recent developments could well result in the regrouping of, and revival of militant activities in India by groups such as the United Liberation Front of Asom, the Mizo National Front and the NSCN.

Meanwhile, the West, which generally views events across the globe through the prism of geo-politics, is already putting out the idea that Bangladesh might well become the crucible for the next phase of conflict between India and China. Undoubtedly, both India and China have important stakes in Bangladesh. More recently, Bangladesh has begun to make certain overtures to China to accommodate its economic and defence needs. It is quite possible that with the eclipse of Sheikh Hasina, the successor regime in Bangladesh might well seek to strengthen its China connection, even as Sheikh Hasina was seen to be manifestly pro-India. All this is, however, in the realm of conjecture, and it may be too early to view Bangladesh through the prism of geo-politics – China, India, the U.S. *et al*.

Compounding problems for India

For an India, wrestling with the problem of having to deal with difficult and uncertain situations along much of its periphery, specially to the west and the northwest, the Bangladesh developments could not have come at a worse time. In the east, it now confronts a Bangladesh that appears set to shift from being a friendly neighbour to a problem state. The vexed issue of the Rohingya Muslims, which needed an early solution, will, in all likelihood, be put on the back burner for now.

Myanmar is currently controlled by a clutch of generals (who are not above being enticed by western military advisers), and while the generals may not be overtly hostile to India at present, they do not see themselves as being in step with it. Lurking in the background are again certain external forces – not only China and Pakistan – who are likely to fish in these troubled waters. This could exert a pincer-type stranglehold on India's ambition to achieve a peaceful and prosperous South Asia.

India may, hence, need to devise a new set of strategies to deal with the emerging situation. One myth that has already been exploded is that India had little to fear from developments to its east and south. Both regions have today become highly problematic, to say the least. The threat from China also looms larger than ever before if, as is being anticipated, it could secure a beachhead in a post-Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh. A simultaneous strengthening of the China-Pakistan axis would thereafter pose a threat of a kind that had not existed for several years. More than anything else, it is the spectre of Islamist radicalism that could well haunt the entire region – more so in Bangladesh at this time alongside the threat of a possible link up between radical Islamist elements in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Southeast Asia.

The troubles in Bangladesh are by no means over. Violent street protests are usually a precursor for events that seldom have a good ending. The experience of other countries is that students seldom achieve through protests what they seek. This has been the recent experience in Europe and elsewhere. Movements of this kind tend to be usually taken over by forces inimical to democracy. Consequently, India faces a moral and security dilemma in the wake of recent events in Bangladesh.

Perils of decentralisation with Chinese characteristics

Pranay Kotasthane

a researcher at the Takshashila Institution, an independent centre for research and education in public policy

Manoj Kewalramani

a researcher at the Takshashila Institution, an independent centre for research and education in public policy

In his Independence day speech this year, the Prime Minister urged States to compete with each other to attract investors. In sharp contrast, extreme subnational economic competition seems to have run its course in China. Here is why decentralisation, once celebrated as a reason for China's economic miracle, has turned counter-productive.

Unlike India, where city-level governments account for less than 3% of total government spending, a staggering 51% of government spending in China happens at sub-provincial levels. Local governments also have a much broader qualitative mandate. They are almost exclusively responsible for unemployment insurance and pensions, subjects Indians generally associate with the national government.

Yet, China's extreme decentralisation does not make it a federal country. A key feature of a federal system is that higher-level governments cannot extinguish the powers given to lower-level governments, as the Constitution protects them. No such provision exists in China's Party-state system. After Deng Xiaoping's Southern Tour caused local governments to go on a spending spree, the central government severely and immediately restricted their ability to raise money through the Tax-Sharing Reform of 1994.

Overcapacity is structural

Local governments had to find a way out. Since economic growth was an important determinant of local leaders' political prospects, they started prioritising industrial construction over the provision of public services. They offered industrial land at deep discounts compared to residential land in the hope that industrial outputs would increase regional economic growth and also become a source for future local tax revenues. Local governments attracted investors with attractive land rights. Firms accepted the offer, churned out goods at low rates because of cost advantages, and exported to the world.

This investment-led model is structurally prone to overcapacity. This model of competitive sub-national growth is akin to a car having two accelerators and no brakes. The arrangement worked well till the Hu Jintao period. The central leadership set broad priorities and targets while local governments experimented and competed. The process of crossing the river while feeling the stones created tremendous wealth, while also generating structural overcapacity, wasteful investment, and loss-making entities.

> India must note that decentralisation, once celebrated as a reason for China's economic miracle, has turned counter-productive

The overall trend remained net positive for two reasons. First, the directives were broad enough for local governments to try different ways to achieve growth or reform goals. For instance, Guangdong interpreted the central goal of economic opening by experimenting with special economic zones. Other regions were free to follow alternate models. Likewise, the central leadership permitted local innovations in the housing sector, rather than imposing a particular solution. This policy innovation process was locally determined and not micromanaged by the centre.

Second, a salubrious geopolitical climate was crucial. Foreign markets were willing and able to absorb China's ever-increasing capacity. China's steel sector's expansion is a case in point. Starting from the turn of the millennium, within six years, China went from being a net steel importer to the largest steel manufacturer and a net exporter. By the beginning of the 2010s, tackling overcapacity in the steel sector had become a prominent policy objective. While many Chinese companies failed along the way, several rode this wave, generating tremendous value for employees and the government.

The car encounters a slope

However, this model began to reach a tipping point around the time Xi Jinping came to power. Researchers at the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in 2014 estimated that half of all investment between 2009 and 2013 was "ineffective", amounting to a waste of nearly $6.9 trillion. Mr. Xi's solution to this predicament was to strengthen central control and establish traffic lights to direct state and private capital in desirable domains.

Since then, central directives have become narrower. The desire for self-sufficiency has further resulted in them focusing on specific product lines. For example, the drive to localise the entire supply chain for semiconductors is divorced from market-based demand and the comparative advantages of the Chinese industry. The "Big Fund" began in 2014 intending to build a self-sufficient semiconductor industry. Drawing on this, many local governments indiscriminately poured money into chip-making firms. Ten years later, China has not mastered the production of advanced chips. Nevertheless, many firms continue to milk local governments for funding. The Economist reports that 30% of all industrial firms were making losses at the end of June 2024, beating the previous worst performance during the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s.

Another reason is that other governments now see China's overcapacity as a national security threat. This is evident in the geopolitical wrangling underway over tech-enabled Chinese products such as electric vehicles and telecom equipment. Moreover, China's bad international conduct has exacerbated the negative perceptions of Chinese products and investments.

Shortcomings in the BRI approach

Mr. Xi planned to substitute western markets with increasing domestic demand and find new international markets through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Increasing domestic demand has not worked out because this is unfamiliar territory for a structure obsessed with supply-side stimuli. The BRI approach has not worked because the participating countries are not economically strong enough to generate huge demand.

In short, overcapacity and export orientation are baked into Chinese-style decentralisation. This model has now reached its limits due to China's arrogant approach to international relations and its drive towards self-reliance. Though we might see a jump in exports for some sectors, China faces an economic decline if it does not transform its political and economic relations with the world's major countries.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unrest in Manipur

Over the past year, Manipur has experienced turmoil, with multiple instances of clashes between communities. The situation has now escalated to a point where students are demanding the removal of top public servants for their failure in protecting the lives and the properties of citizens. The situation now has some resemblance with the unrest being experienced in Bangladesh. The current government must focus on the issues in Manipur. We have already witnessed the tragic loss of lives due to these community clashes.

Gaddam Yeshwanth,
Hyderabad

U.S. speech

The Leader of the Opposition paying a visit to the United States is fine up to the point where his public connect is friendly from the perspective of India as a whole. But criticising the government in a foreign land, or unfurling a political agenda does undermine the government. Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the government is totally acceptable but this must be within India. He is now the Leader of the Opposition and must carefully calibrate his speeches while outside.

Kirti Wadhawan,
Kanpur

Peace and an Indian role

It is good tidings that India could be playing a global role in mediating peace between Russia and Ukraine (September 11). The 'four-point principle' mooted by India must succeed and ensure peace and tranquillity.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

India's sickle cell challenge

Dhananjay Vaidyanathan Rohini

Partner, Alstonia Impact, a global public health consulting firm

Gautam Dongre

Secretary of National Alliance of Sickle Cell Organisations and board member of Global Alliance of Sickle Cell Disease Organisations

Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047, from Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Modi has seen this debilitating condition from close quarters during his term as Chief Minister of Gujarat, where sickle cell disease is a major public health concern. In this article, we highlight the many opportunities to build on this momentum.

Challenges in India

With over a million people affected with sickle cell disease, India bears the world's second largest burden of this condition. A majority of the patients are concentrated in the tribal belt running across Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

Sickle cell disease is caused by a genetic abnormality: if both parents carry the sickle cell trait, the child has significant chances of being born with the disease. While healthy individuals have disc-shaped red blood cells, those with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that take on a crescent or sickle-like shape. The lifespan of these patients is significantly shortened (to about 40 years) and their quality of life is curtailed due to the range of health complications caused by sickle cells, including sickle cell anaemia, recurrent infections, pain, swelling, and damage to vital organs. In addition to health issues, patients also suffer from the social stigma that is attached to this disease. They can sometimes be deemed "genetically inferior" and ostracised. Some of them are told that this disease is "God's curse". In some areas, the condition is attributed to "black magic". Due to the hereditary nature of sickle cell disease, patients also face diminished marital and social prospects.

With the launch of the Mission in 2023, the Central government's attention to the disease is high. Among other efforts, a large-scale screening programme is underway nationwide. Hydroxyurea, a vital medicine for treating sickle cell disease, been included in the essential medicines list; this has increased access to it. While measures such as these will help detect and treat sickle cell disease, there are still many challenges.

Our estimates suggest that only 18% of the people affected by sickle cell disease in India are receiving consistent treatment. This is because patients drop out at all stages of treatment: while getting screened for the disease, while getting diagnosed, while starting treatment, and while trying to adhere to treatment.

The largest drops occur at the diagnosis and treatment adherence stages. Getting a correct diagnosis is a challenge as many people hesitate to seek support due to the stigma associated with the condition. They often consult traditional healers, who frequently misdiagnose the condition. While the public system has a stronger diagnostic capacity for sickle cell disease, there is a historic mistrust of it in tribal areas. As a result, few patients get tested.

The second big drop is around treatment adherence. No permanent cure is available for sickle cell disease. Ongoing research in gene therapy is promising, but will be unaffordable for most of the affected population even when it becomes available. At present, relatively inexpensive drugs such as hydroxyurea are effective for most patients if administered with the right dosage and frequency. However, there is seldom a regular and convenient supply of medicines, along with adherence support (such as that provided to TB patients). Key medicines sometimes go out of stock. Patients have also said that they need to travel long distances to pick up their medicines. In a State in central India, a healthcare professional noted that patients travel for more than 200 kilometres to seek treatment. Further, coverage of several vaccinations, which reduce the frequency of infections and improve the quality of life for patients, remains poor.

The way ahead

The Mission can build on its initial successes by tackling some of these challenges. First, it is important to reduce the stigma related to the disease and build trust in public health institutions. Awareness should be raised through targeted media campaigns to bust specific myths (which vary by region and tribe). For this, India could draw from its experience in tackling polio and HIV. With reduced stigma, the chances of sickle cell trait carriers concealing their carrier status may also reduce, which would in turn lead to fewer women giving birth to children with the condition.

Second, given that cases are often missed and diagnosis delayed, there could be increasing screening for newborns. This strategy is low-cost with a high pay-off and would especially be effective in areas where the condition is endemic.

Third, drugs as well as adherence support must be available close to patients, in the nearest health and wellness centres. For complications, interdisciplinary centres of excellence at the district/division levels should be made operational.

Fourth, ensuring that all known patients receive approved vaccines will be crucial; this may require catch-up vaccination programmes.

Fifth, health in tribal areas should be operationally strengthened by factoring in conditions unique to these areas. Healthcare should also be adequately funded.

Finally, research should be conducted to better understand the disease and its pathways in India, and to develop new treatments. Philanthropists and members of civil society must play a catalytic role, and work with the Central and State governments.

With over a million people affected with sickle cell disease, India bears the world's second largest burden of this condition

The multi-agency war against corruption

The perception in Telangana is that the government is tackling graft head-on

STATE OF PLAY

Serish Nanisetti
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There is a perception in Telangana that the Congress government is doing its best to stamp out corruption.

In the aftermath of the 2023 Assembly elections that saw the end of the decade-long rule of the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), corruption was identified as a source of disenchantment among voters. A CSDS-Lokniti post-poll study indicated that corruption had emerged as a prominent source of dissatisfaction. Recognising this, the Congress government has shown that it is willing to act against it.

First, the Telangana Drugs Control Administration conducted raids on medical stores, manufacturing firms, and practitioners of fake medicine. The inspections showed fake medicines as well as the channels through which they are coming into the State. The department released a steady stream of information about the malpractices and highlighted how these medicines and practitioners pose threats to health. The government shut down factories and charged practitioners under relevant sections of the law.

Then, teams of the Commissioner of Food Safety started visiting restaurants, cafes, hostels, and cloud kitchens. The outcomes of the inspections were shared on social media with the names of well-known restaurants and their shortcomings.

Until now, these two departments had been accused of not doing their job or looking the other way. By cleaning up two key industries where trust is paramount, they have

created a shift in perception.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau, which is tasked with checking graft in the official machinery, also began nabbing officials who were taking bribes. The previous BRS government had a business-friendly air about it. The TS-iPASS (Telangana State Industrial Project Approval and Self-Certification System) assured time-bound clearances for projects, failing which they were deemed to be approved. The TG-bPASS (Telangana Building Permission Approval and Self-Certification System) provided instant approval for residential plots up to 75 square yards and buildings up to 7 metres in height. The approvals came thick and fast, and corruption crept in.

As a result of the Anti-Corruption Bureau's efforts, a bureaucrat who had assets of more than ₹100 crore was nabbed in January. Another was caught with ₹6 crore. An additional collector of Rangareddy district was caught taking a bribe of ₹8 lakh. The impact of the photos of cash on social media has helped shape the positive narrative about the government.

In July, the Revanth Reddy government constituted the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA). Armed with a broad range of powers from demolitions on government land to relief and rescue operations, the organisation quickly started using earthmovers to level encroachment on lake beds and buffer zones. It demolished a 30,000 sq ft convention hall that is partly owned by Telugu actor, Akkineni Nagarjuna, in the upscale Madhapur area. HYDRAA officials said that the hall was built in the buffer zone of a lake and proved it with a 2014 map showing the encroachment. They also razed properties belonging to a Congress leader, a Bharatiya Janata Party leader, and leaders of the All India Majlis Ittehadul-e-Muslimeen. Some of these leaders were detained for a short while while the demolitions were carried out.

Of these four agencies involved in the fight against corruption, three are headed by Indian Police Service officers and one by an Indian Administrative Service officer. While political parties and other stakeholders are searching for "an agenda" for this multi-agency, multi-pronged attack on corruption, the people are happy. Property owners and prospective buyers who did not think twice about the location are now circumspect. Government officials who believed that everything was business-as-usual are equally guarded as some of them have been booked in criminal cases for malfeasance.

The government's initiative, which affects people across parties and industries in Telangana, is a welcome change, especially since the fight against graft in India generally looks like a political witch-hunt, orchestrated for a select audience with a stated outcome. The hope is that this will become the norm and there is no agenda. But the question is: will the spectre of corruption go away while stodgy paperwork remains the norm in bureaucracy?

India's increasing competitiveness at the Chess Olympiad

The current team in the Open event in Budapest is India's strongest ever and second only to the U.S. in ELO ratings

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

As the 45th Chess Olympiad is being held in Budapest, we look at historical performances in the Open section of the most prestigious event of team chess. India has been participating in the biennial event since 1956 and has played in every Olympiad since 1980. The Olympiad was dominated by the erstwhile Soviet Union, which won 18 gold medals. Russia and the U.S. have won six gold medals each, while India has got two bronze medals, in 2014 and 2022 **(Table 1)**.

In Budapest, India's team comprising Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi, D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi, and P. Harikrishna is the strongest one ever fielded by the country **(Table 2)**. The average ELO rating for India (2753) is just four points behind the U.S., rated the No. 1 team.

This squad also boasts the highest starting ELO rating for an Indian team. In 2018, the squad had an average of 2724 **(Chart 3).**

D. Gukesh won an individual gold in 2022, scoring 8 points in 11 games for a points per game (ppg) score of 0.82. Among all the players who played a substantive number, the Soviet great, Mikhail Tal, remains the best performer with 0.81 ppg in 101 games, followed by former world champion Anatoly Karpov **(Table 4).**

For India, GM Krishnan Sasikiran has been a warhorse, scoring 0.62 points per game in 113 games, while talisman V. Anand played 87 games (0.66 ppg) **(Chart 5).** Rafiq Khan scored 0.69 ppg in 29 games and won India's first medal, a silver, in the Malta Olympiad in 1980.

In terms of performance ELO rating that captures the level of competition, Vidit Gujrathi leads with 2698.7 ELO points among Indians who played at least 30 games in the Olympiad **(Chart 6)**.

The gathering Indian storm

Data for Chess Olympiads were sourced from olimpbase.org

Table 1: Historical performance in the Chess Olympiad (Open)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Soviet Union	18	1	0	19
2	U.S.	6	6	8	20
3	Russia	6	3	3	12
4	Hungary	3	7	2	12
5	Armenia	3	1	3	7
6	Ukraine	2	2	3	7
7	China	2	1	0	3
...					
20	India	0	0	2	2

Table 2: Average ELO ratings for teams in the Open section in the Budapest Olympiad being held currently

Country	Average ELO
U.S.	2757
India	2753
China	2724
Uzbekistan	2690
Netherlands	2682
Norway	2670
Germany	2667
England	2665
Hungary	2663
Iran	2659

Rafiq Khan won India's first medal, a silver, in the Malta Olympiad in 1980

Chart 3: India's performance in Chess Olympiads since 1980 (starting ELO rating in left axis, final position in right axis)

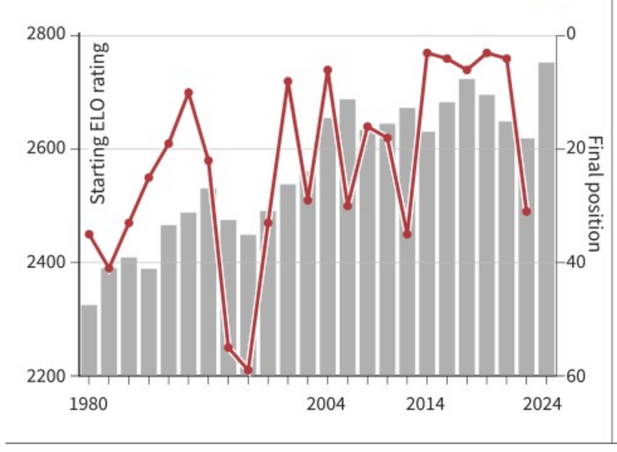
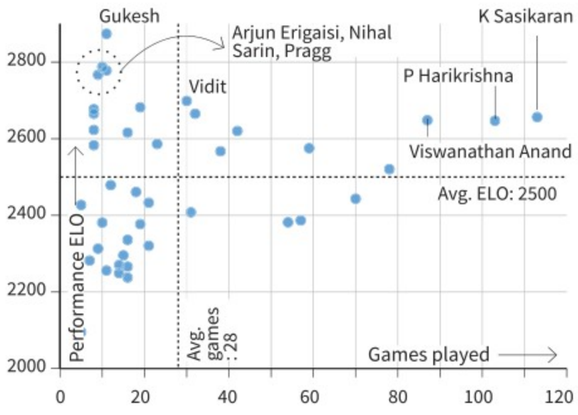


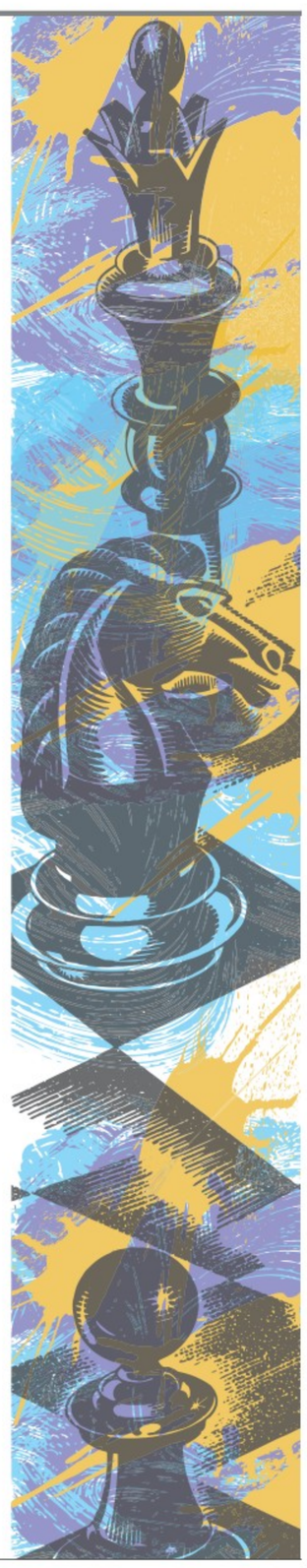
Table 4: Best individual performers across Olympiads (Open)

Rank	Player	Games	Points per game
1	Mikhail Tal (USSR)	101	0.81
2	Anatoly Karpov (Russia)	68	0.80
3	Tigran Petrosian (USSR)	129	0.80
4	Isaac Kashdan (U.S.)	79	0.80
5	Vasily Smyslov (USSR)	113	0.80
6	David Bronstein (USSR)	49	0.80
7	Garry Kasparov (Russia)	82	0.79
8	A Alekhine (France)	72	0.78
9	Matulović (Yugoslavia)	78	0.77
10	Paul Keres (Estonia)	141	0.76

Chart 5: Indians who played in the Open section in Chess Olympiads (points per game: ppg versus games played)

Chart 6: Indians at the Chess Olympiad (performance ELO ratings versus games played) in the Open section





FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 12, 1974

Bhutto cites Sikkim to get U.S. arms aid

Washington, Sept. 11: Prime Minister Bhutto of Pakistan apparently intends to cite India's "annexation" of Sikkim as yet another argument to persuade the United States to resume arms supplies to Pakistan, lifting the existing U.S. ban. In an interview given to the New Delhi correspondent of the Washington Post, Mr. Bhutto has said that by "swallowing up" Sikkim, India has given new credibility to Pakistan's demands for U.S. military assistance. He has indicated that the arms aid issue would be raised when the Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, visits Islamabad late next month in the course of his tour of capitals in the subcontinent.

The Post correspondent writes that though Dr. Kissinger and other senior U.S. officials have disagreed with Mr. Bhutto's contention that the U.S. has a commitment to rearm Pakistan (as a fellow member of CENTO) "knowledgeable sources" have told him that Mr. Bhutto's appeals for U.S. arms are getting "serious consideration" in Washington. (This runs contrary to the assurances reportedly received by the Indian Ambassador here from Dr. Kissinger in recent conversations, to the effect that the U.S. has no intention of getting involved in an arms race in the sub-continent).

Mr. Bhutto, who ever since May has been trying to use India's explosion of an underground nuclear device as an excuse to extract arms from the U.S., told his American interviewer: "Kissinger ought to consider Sikkim when he comes here. But this must be something he does on his own. I can't keep telling him what India's intentions are, showing him the maps. We stand vindicated by our analysis. Half of our country is gone. Half of Kashmir is gone. They (India) marched into Goa. They have gone nuclear. And now they have swallowed up Sikkim."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 12, 1924

Rains in East Rajputana

Bombay, Sept. 11: A communique from the General Traffic Manager, B.B. and C.I. Railway Bombay, states: - In consequence of the recent heavy rain in East Rajputana, the B.B. and C.I. Railway between Bayana and Pingora on the Nagada-Muttra section and between Bandikui and Bharatpur on the metre gauge section has been considerably ravaged by floods.

From Page One

Kolkata doctors set fresh conditions

The email included a fresh invitation to a delegation of 12-15 junior doctors for a discussion at the Secretariat at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

At a press conference later in the evening, Ms. Bhattacharya joined Mr. Pant in saying that as law-abiding citizens, everyone should adhere to the Supreme Court order. Asked if the State government would take action, the Minister said people would come to know when the government acted.

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud had on Monday said that doctors cannot remain oblivious to the needs of the community they are intended to serve and appealed them to return to work by 5 p.m. on Tuesday. "But if they [resident doctors] do not start work, we will not be able to restrain the State from taking action, because that is entirely within its jurisdiction," it had said.

Amid the ongoing slugfest between the State government and doctors, thousands of junior doctors continued the demonstration outside Swasthya Bhavan, the headquarters of the Health Department, on Wednesday. Parents of the rape and murder victim had also visited the protest site.

In addition to their earlier demands, they also sought the resignation of the Principal Secretary, Health, as well as the Director of Health Services and Director of Medical Education.

On Tuesday, Ms. Bhattacharya had said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was waiting for a meeting with the doctors till 7.30 p.m.

"Last evening, we found out from the media that the Chief Minister was waiting to meet us at the State Secretariat. We want to make it clear that in the email we received from the Health Secretary, there was no mention of the Chief Minister waiting for us," Dr. Nanda had clarified.

Centre withdraws nod for PresVu eye drops

The trial, he said, was successful in showing efficacy and safety of the eye drops in patients with presbyopia.

The pharmaceutical firm had issued a press release about its PresVu eye drops, developed to reduce dependence on reading glasses for individuals affected by presbyopia, a common age-related vision condition typically seen in those over the age of 40.

On September 4, it tweeted that "PresVu was the first DCGI-approved proprietary prescription eye drops to eliminate the need for reading glasses". Tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the post, it further said the drug was "a proud Indian innovation that could help millions of Indians see better and that too at an affordable price".

Following widespread interest, multiple ophthalmologists began sounding a cautionary alarm and the company was asked for an explanation for its "unethical and false representation of facts". Ophthalmologists pointed out that the active ingredient used in the eye drops, pilocarpine, had been used for decades to treat another eye condition, glaucoma, but had since been replaced with newer, better drugs. They pointed out that the use of pilocarpine could cause several side effects.

"We do not use pilocarpine anymore as it is known to cause some discomfort to the eye and also because we have better drugs available in the market for glaucoma. The miosis or constriction of the pupils induced by pilocarpin helps people to see objects close to them better and is, at best, only a temporary solution for presbyopia," said Sreeni Edakhlon, an ophthalmic surgeon based in Thalassery, Kerala.

He said the All India Ophthalmological Society had now constituted an experts' group to discuss the possible adverse effects of the drug.

Manipur Police file FIR for attack on CRPF camp

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Manipur Police have filed a *suo motu* case against valley-based armed miscreants who attacked a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp on September 8, amid renewed violence in the State.

At least 11 people have been killed since September 1 in the hill and valley districts of Manipur.

The first information report (FIR) registered at the New Keithelmanbi police station in Kangpokpi district said the company commander of the CRPF camp at Laimaton Thangbuh village had complained that on September 8, "unknown valley-based armed miscreants attacked the camp by indiscriminately firing from 5.30 p.m. to 6.40 p.m." It added that an inquiry revealed that a 46-year-old resident of the village died of bullet injuries while three homes were burnt down. A case of attempt to murder has been registered.

A police official said the attack was reportedly carried out by cadres of the KYKL under the umbrella of G5 – five valley-based banned Meitei insurgent groups. The groups are UNLF(K), KYKL(O), PREPAK, KCP and KYKL(S). "The CRPF retaliated and one militant was likely injured," said the official.

A day after clashes, uneasy calm prevails in Manipur

Students hold peaceful demonstrations at several places across five districts where mobile and other Internet services remained suspended for second day; police defend firing of tear gas shells

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

An uneasy calm prevailed in restive Manipur on Wednesday, a day after protesters clashed with security personnel on the streets of the State's capital Imphal leaving more than 50 students injured.

There were no reports of fresh violence either in the Imphal Valley comprising five districts – almost the central part of the State dominated by the non-tribal Meiteis – or in the peripheral hills where the tribal Kuki-Zos are a majority.

An indefinite curfew was imposed in three of these districts in the valley – Imphal East, Imphal West, and Thoubal – while mobile and other Internet services were suspended temporarily in all five districts on Tuesday. There are no restrictions in the hill districts.

The State government said these steps were taken "to thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements, maintain peace and communal harmony and prevent any loss of life or danger to public/private property".

Security personnel patrolled the streets of Imphal and the valley beyond as most people remained indoors and small groups of students held peaceful sit-in demonstrations at some places demanding resolution of the ongoing ethnic conflict.

Strict watch: CRPF personnel deployed at Gamgiphai, the inter-State check post boundary, after the recent violence in different areas in Kangpokpi, Imphal West on Wednesday. ANI

Amid the prevailing tension, Manipur University postponed all scheduled postgraduate and undergraduate examinations until further notice.

On the day, Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya left Imphal for Guwahati. He is the Governor of Assam with the additional charge of Manipur.

The Manipur Police defended the firing of tear gas shells and stun grenades to disperse protesters on Tuesday. According to local media, the police said that some of the protesters – mostly students – used petrol bombs, firearms, and slingshots with iron balls.

"The protest rallies taken out by the students were peaceful until certain elements instigated them to resort to violence. At least 10 of our personnel were injured," a senior police officer told journalists in Imphal on Wednesday.

Students across the Imphal Valley have demanded the removal of the State's security adviser Kuldiep Singh and Director General of Police Rajiv Singh for failing to protect the lives and properties of citizens. Many of them, including juveniles, have camped at the all-women's market in Imphal's Khwairamband area since Monday.

Meanwhile, unknown gunmen attacked the residence of veteran journalist Yambem Laba in Uripok Yambem Leikai of Imphal on Wednesday. They fired about 10 rounds, some of which hit the wall of his bedroom.

Shah failed to control attacks, must resign: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on the Union government over the renewed violence in Manipur, the Congress on Wednesday said Home Minister Amit Shah had been a "total failure" in controlling the violence, and demanded his resignation.

Party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate, Manipur Congress chief K. Meghachandra, Lok Sabha member from Inner Manipur A. Bimol Akoijam, and AICC in-charge of Manipur Girish Chodankar held a joint press conference in which they also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not visiting the strife-torn State even once in the past 16 months.

They said the Prime Minister was more concerned about crises and conflicts in other parts of the world than in his own country. "A State of this country has been burning for the last 16 months and the Prime Minister of this country does not have even a minute to go to Manipur," Ms. Shrinate said.

Mr. Akoijam said post-Independent India had not seen the kind of violence that Manipur had witnessed in the past 16 months. "The constitutional mechanism has completely collapsed – the situation is akin to Partition," he said.

BSF jawan injured in firing by Pakistani troops across border

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

A Border Security Forces (BSF) jawan was injured in "an unprovoked firing incident" by Pakistani troops from across the International Border in the Akhnoor area of Jammu on Wednesday.

The incident took place around 2.35 a.m. Constable Durba Jyoti Das sustained injuries in the attack. A befitting response was given by the BSF, officials said. The BSF has been put on alert "to avert any aggression by the enemy".

Militants killed

Two unidentified militants were killed in an anti-militancy operation in Kathua district on Wednesday.

An Army spokesman said the two terrorists "were neutralised in the ongoing operation at Khandara in Kathua". "The operation carried out by troops of the Army's Rising Star Corps is in progress," the Army said.

Earlier in the day, the troops of the Rising Star Corps "established contact with the terrorists in the general area Khandara, Kathua". The troops engaged the hiding militants in a firefight.

The killing of militants comes at a time when Jammu and Kashmir is preparing to hold its first Assembly election as a Union Territory later this month.

'Developed border areas act as deterrence to adversary's claims'

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The objective of the government is to transform villages along the northern borders, especially in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh, which are suffering from limited connectivity and infrastructure, into model villages, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday. "We aim to connect them to the mainstream of development," he added.

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi presents a memento to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday. ANI

Describing border area development as a core component of national security, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi said a developed area with a strong economic and tourist activity acts also as a deterrence to the adversary. "It basically discredits adversary claims or who otherwise claim this is theirs. People are there on ground to confirm what is correct and what is not," he said.

The Union government has approved the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) for development of border villages as a Centrally sponsored scheme on February 15, 2023, with financial outlay of ₹4,800 crore for the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26, for the development of the 2,967 villages in 46 blocks in 19 districts bordering China and Nepal in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Union Territory of Ladakh.

Talking of the progress achieved in border area development, Mr. Singh said, "The Border Roads Organisation has constructed over 8,500 km of roads and more than 400 permanent bridges. Atal Tunnel, Sela Tunnel and Shikun-La Tunnel, which is going to be the world's highest tunnel, will prove to be milestones in border area development." He said the ongoing efforts have not only ensured prompt military deployments in sensitive regions, but have also connected the people residing in border areas with the rest of the country.

Army officers attacked, their woman friend raped in M.P.

Press Trust of India
MHOW

Two young Army officers and their two women friends were attacked, and one of the women was raped by a group of men during a picnic in Indore district, Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday.

The officers, aged 23 and 24, were undergoing Young Officers course at the Infantry School in Mhow, and had gone out for a picnic late on Tuesday. Seven unidentified men attacked the officers and the women near Mhow-Mandleshwar road. The victims were taken to Mhow Civil Hospital, where it was found that the accused had raped one of the women. "A case has been registered and manhunt is on," the police said.

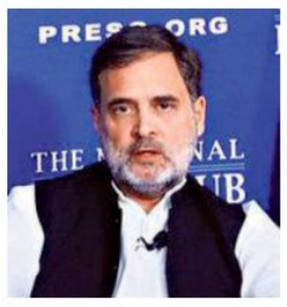
Modi government did not handle conflict with China well, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress's approach is in sync with the Narendra Modi government on major foreign policy issues, including India's relationship with the U.S.; no talks with Pakistan unless the flow of terrorism is stopped; and the rise of extremist elements in Bangladesh and Israel, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Tuesday.

Mr. Gandhi, who concluded his four-day trip to the U.S., made these observations during an interaction with reporters at the prestigious National Press Club at Washington.

While Mr. Gandhi talked of continuity in foreign policy issues, he was sharp in his criticism of the Modi government's handling of the border face-off with China.



Rahul Gandhi

"We have got Chinese troops occupying land the size of Delhi in Ladakh. I think that's a disaster. Media does not like to write about it," he said. "How would America react if a neighbour occupied 4,000 square kilometres of your territory? Would any President be able to get away with saying that he has handled that well?"

However, he endorsed the government's position on Pakistan. "We are not going to accept Pakistan carrying out terror acts in our country. We are just not going to accept it. And until they keep doing that, there are going to be problems between us," he said. Asked if the Kashmir issue is holding the two South Asian nations away from a dialogue, Mr. Gandhi replied in the negative.

"I don't see Mr. Modi is diverting very much from our approach with the U.S. I don't see ourselves changing direction very much from what he's doing," he said, indicating a bipartisan approach towards the U.S.

Covering a wide spectrum of topics, the Opposition leader also talked about the state of democracy in India and how it is fighting back, his party's difficulty in fighting the elections with "frozen bank accounts", and being "the only person in Indian history to get a prison sentence for defamation".

"I can say to you that Indian democracy for the last 10 years was broken. It is fighting back, but it was broken," Mr. Gandhi said.

"We fought an election with our bank accounts frozen. I don't know any democracy where that has happened. Maybe that type of thing happened in Syria or used to happen in Iraq," he said.

But the Opposition leader made it clear that the fight for democracy was India's internal fight. "The fight for democracy in India is an Indian fight. With all due respect, it has nothing to do with anybody else. And we will take care of it," he said.

Shah, BJP leaders say Rahul making anti-India remarks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday mounted a scathing attack on the Congress and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who is currently on a U.S. visit, accusing him of joining hands with anti-India forces abroad, making anti-national remarks on foreign platforms, and supporting anti-reservation agenda.

In a post on X, Home Minister Amit Shah said that it had become a "habit" for Mr. Gandhi and his party to stand with forces that conspired to divide India and make anti-national statements.

Mr. Shah said that by speaking about "abolishing reservation in the country", Mr. Gandhi had once again brought the Congress's anti-reservation face to the forefront.

Amit Shah

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh joined in, accusing Mr. Gandhi of making misleading and baseless remarks that "hurt the dignity of India".

The BJP leader said Mr. Gandhi's claim that the NDA government wanted to scrap reservation was also completely baseless.

Concerned over safety, say Bengal judicial officers

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

A letter signed by three judicial officers of the Diamond Harbour subdivisional court in West Bengal, expressing concern over safety, provided a fresh handle to the Opposition parties to target the Trinamool Congress government over the law and order situation in the State.

In the letter addressed to the District Judge, South 24 Parganas, the judicial officers have stated that a person was found loitering in the judges' housing complex, and a policeman was sending people inside the complex to disconnect electricity.

The letter requested immediate measures to ensure the judges' safety and security.

Engineer Rashid says he is no 'BJP proxy'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/ SRINAGAR

Shortly after being released on interim bail from Tihar Jail, Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid. aka Engineer Rashid, on Wednesday denied the allegation that he was a BJP proxy, saying he would fight against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies till his last breath. His party would field over 35 candidates in the Assembly election on the promise of a "real New Kashmir", he said.

Describing himself as a victim of the BJP, Mr. Rashid said he would fight against Mr. Modi's policies, as the Prime Minister had let down the people of J&K and his slogan of "New Kashmir" did not have any impact on the ground.

Launching an attack on his political opponents Mr. Rashid said his fight was much bigger than what former J&K CM Omar Abdullah had alleged about him of being a BJP proxy. He also objected to his being linked to "separatist" politics, saying he had been an MLA for about 11 years.

Brother files papers
Sheikh Khursheed, brother of Mr. Rashid, on Wednesday filed his papers from Mr. Rashid's hometown Langate.

In J&K, Cong. offers five guarantees, Statehood

Kharge says party, if it wins power, will restore the bicameral legislature; its promises include cash for women head of a family and free rice; he says NC-Congress alliance has left the BJP frustrated

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Poll pitch: Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and K.C. Venugopal, along with National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, at an election campaign in Anantnag on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Announcing "five guarantees" for Jammu and Kashmir at an election rally in Anantnag on Wednesday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the party "will not only strive for J&K's Statehood but also restore the bicameral House system" as it existed before the Centre ended the erstwhile State's special constitutional status in 2019.

"The Congress will ensure that J&K gets Statehood again and will establish an Upper House and a Lower House. How will we do it? With people on our side, we will do it with people's power," said Mr. Kharge, who joined the election campaign for candidates fielded by the National Conference-Congress alliance.

Jobs, schools
Flanked by NC president Farooq Abdullah and senior Congress leaders, including K.C. Venugopal and Subodh Kant, the Congress president read out the party's five guarantees: ₹3,000 a month to the woman head of the family, 11 kg of rice for every family member, recruitment to one lakh vacant posts, opening of 4,400 government schools, health insurance of ₹25 lakh for every family, and interest-free loan of ₹5 lakh to women involved in self-help groups. Defending the party's move to stitch an alliance with the NC, Mr. Kharge said it had "left the BJP frustrated and forced it to repeatedly change the candidate list for J&K".

He said the coming together of the NC and the Congress, and the unity of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance had intimidated the BJP.

'BJP divisive'
"The BJP is trying to divide the people here in the name of religion, but they will never succeed. We are one and will always remain one," Mr. Kharge said.

He reached out to migrant Kashmir Pandits. "The promise for rehabilitation of Kashmir Pandit migrants made during the term of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be fulfilled," he said.

"This government did not bring any industry or work on job creation. We will focus on tourism and manufacturing," Mr. Kharge said.

On the contentious issue of reservation, Mr. Kharge said the Other Backward Class groups "will also get their rights as enshrined in the Constitution".

AAP fields WWE wrestler Kavita against Vinesh Phogat

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) released separate lists of 30 candidates on Wednesday, pitting professional wrestler Kavita Dalal, the first Indian woman wrestler to be part of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), against Olympian and Congress candidate Vinesh Phogat from the Julana Assembly constituency. The party has so far announced 70 candidates for Haryana.

Ms. Dalal belongs to Malvi village in Julana and has performed in the WWE ring as Kavita and 'Hard KD'. Sources in the AAP said she had been associated with the party from the days of the farmers' protests against the (since repealed) farm laws.

Apart from Julana, the party named its candidates for Ladwa, Karnal, Narwana, Punhana, Kaithal, Hisar, and Hansi.

The AAP also released a list of 40 star campaigners, including national convener Arvind Kejriwal, his wife Sunita, former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, and Rajya Sabha members Sanjay Singh and Sandeep Pathak.

AAP Haryana president Sushil Gupta said the party would contest all 90 seats.

INBRIEF

19 former senior officials, academics join the BJP

Retired senior Army officers, former Ambassadors, civil servants, and academics were among those who joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday at the residence of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. They included a former member of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, former Lieutenant-Generals and Major-Generals, a former Vice-Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities, and a former Chancellor of Maulana Azad University.

BJP denies ticket for Ram Bilas Sharma in Haryana

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) late on Wednesday night announced candidates for the three remaining Assembly segments in Haryana, denying party ticket to its former State president Ram Bilas Sharma, who had filed his nomination from Mahendragarh earlier during the day miffed over the delay in announcement. Putting to rest speculation of a last-minute tie-up with former Minister Gopal Kanda, the party nominated Rohtash Jangra from Sirsa. In a major snub to Mr. Sharma, the party fielded district president Kanwar Singh Yadav from Mahendragarh.

Haryana Cabinet recommends dissolution of State Assembly

The Haryana Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, on Wednesday gave its nod to a proposal to dissolve the 14th State Assembly, according to an official statement. The proposal will be sent to Governor Bandaru Dattatraya for approval. Assembly elections are slated for October 5. The decision was taken at a session held to fulfil the mandatory constitutional requirement of holding a session before the expiry of six months from the last session of the House. The previous session, a one-day special one, which Mr. Saini called to seek a vote of confidence, was convened on March 13, 2024.

BJP picks holes in Rahul's J&K power scenario remarks

BJP leader and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, who is also the party in-charge of J&K Assembly election, on Wednesday picked holes in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statement on the Union Territory supplying electricity to the rest of the country. "In a recent election rally, Rahul Gandhi stated that while J&K was providing power to the rest of the country, the residents of J&K were paying more than the rest of the country. These are lies that need to be countered as facts on the ground show a different picture," Mr. Reddy said.

Seasoned Tarigami faces a Jamaat challenge in Kulgam

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The red flag of Kashmir's lone communist party leader, M.Y. Tarigami, is for the first time facing a challenge from the banned party Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI)-backed candidate Sayar Ahmad Reshi in south Kashmir's Kulgam constituency.

Winning four Assembly elections in a row since 1996, the 77-year-old Mr. Tarigami has stepped up his poll campaign and addressed 10 rallies on Tuesday. He is up against a formidable opponent in Mr. Reshi in spite of being a joint candidate of the National Conference-Congress alliance in J&K. With the Jamaat boycotting elections for three decades, the main contest in Kulgam has been between the NC and the CPI(M). Unlike other parts of south Kashmir, the Kulgam constituency had been recording a high voter turnout with 56.5% polling in the 2014 Assembly election.

Without naming JeI, Mr. Tarigami took a metaphoric dig at Mr. Reshi in his speeches. "There is a new eagle in the market, which has already taken away chicks. People must protect their chicks as this eagle has a habit of snatching them away. The people of Kulgam should not forget that this eagle has allied with the big eagle, and they need to realise this sooner rather than later," Mr. Tarigami said.

Tough fight: Jamaat-e-Islami backed Sayar Ahmad Reshi during a roadshow in Kulgam constituency. IMRAN NISSAR

In his poll rallies, Mr. Tarigami questioned the JeI's move to field candidates, and hinted at under-the-table understanding between the government and the JeI, which was deemed an unlawful outfit in 2019 by the Centre under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Mr. Tarigami is also a spokesman of the now-defunct Peoples Alliance for the Gupkar Alliance (PAGD), an amalgam of J&K parties formed to fight for the restoration of the pre-August 5, 2019 position. He has hardened his position against the BJP's moves in J&K after 2019.

The growing size of public rallies and door-to-door campaigns by 42-year-old Mr. Reshi have drifted the politics of Kulgam to the pre-1990 era. In 1987, Mr. Tarigami lost to a candidate fielded by the Muslim United Front (MUF), an amalgam supported by the JeI.

With a doctorate in political science, Mr. Reshi's service as an educator in educational institutes has earned him the sobriquet of 'Sayar Sir'. He was also the assistant director of the Falah Aam Trust, an arm of the JeI that runs educational institutes across J&K.

The red versus green is a rare battle on the electoral map of Kashmir, where regional forces dominate the political landscape.

Kulgam will go to the polls in the first phase of the J&K election on September 18.

Hooda files papers, calls for decisive battle against the BJP and Chautalas

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Election ready: Congress candidate Bhupinder Singh Hooda files his nomination papers for the Haryana Assembly election. ANI

With a call for "*Aar Paar Ki Ladai*" (decisive battle), two-time Haryana Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda filed his nomination papers from his traditional Garhi Sampla-Kiloi Assembly constituency in Rohtak on Wednesday.

Striking an emotional chord with supporters at a rally ahead of filing the papers, Mr. Hooda said he had come to the people to seek their permission for waging a decisive battle. "Will you support me in this battle," he asked to loud cheers from the crowds.

Mr. Hooda, one of the top contenders for the Chief Minister's post in the Congress, said that a "*Bhajapa Jaa Rahi Hai, Congress Aa Rahi Hai*" [BJP is going, Congress is coming]" sentiment prevailed across the State.

The septuagenarian leader said at this age, he did not want to fight for himself any more, but for the people of the State.

He said he was "grateful to the people of Haryana" for giving him the opportunity to serve as the Chief Minister from 2005 to 2014.

However, he said he was pained to see Haryana, which was number one in per capita income, per capita investment, jobs, sports, and law and order, being "number one in unemployment and inflation" after 10 years of BJP rule.

Saying that this will be a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress, Mr. Hooda cautioned the electorate against parties that split votes and asked them to "not waste a single vote".

Without naming the Chautalas, who lead the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), Mr. Hooda said a party in the previous election had won 10 seats and ate into the Congress vote share, while costing it an opportunity to form the government.

Haryana polls: Cong. names 40 more candidates

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

A day ahead of the deadline to submit nomination papers for the Assembly election in Haryana, the Congress named 40 more candidates late on Wednesday night.

The party has announced Aditya, son of senior party leader Randeep Surjewala, as its candidate from Kaithal. It has fielded former Deputy Chief Minister Chandra Mohan from Panchkula, Nirmal Singh from Ambala city and Vikas Saharan from Kalayat. The names for nine seats are yet to be announced. The name of Lok Sabha member Kumari Selja, who has shown an interest in returning to State politics, is not in the list.

Ms. Selja again made a pitch for the post of Chief Minister.

The prominent Dalit leader won the recent Lok Sabha election from Sirsa (reserved) constituency, said, "Why cannot a Dalit hold that position?"

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई–निविदा सूचना सं. / e- Tender Notice No: CMG/C/CON/248719 तिथि/ Date. 10.09.2024

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "एसएसएलवी प्रमोचन परिसर, (एसएलसी), तिरूचेंदूर एवं सतनकुलम तालुक, थुथुकुड़ी जिले में शुद्धिकरण सयंत्र (ईंधन), शुद्धिकरण सयंत्र (ऑक्सीकारक), बहिः प्रवाही उपचार सयंत्र (ईटीपी), रडार 1, रडार 2, रडार 3, दूरमिति, दूरादेश, महान एवं गुब्बारा शेड सुविधाएं (सिविल, जन स्वास्थ्य, विद्युत एवं वातानुकूलन कार्य)" (₹1595 लाख) के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 03.10.2024 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Construction of Decontamination plant (Fuel), Decontamination plant (Oxidiser), Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), Radar 1, Radar 2, Radar 3, Telemetry, Telecommand, Mahan and Baloon Shed facilities at SSLV Launch complex, (SLC), Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluk, Tuticorin District (Civil, PH, Electrical & AC works)" (₹1595 Lakhs); Tender documents can be downloaded up to 03.10.2024 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY-754 142, ODISHA (INDIA)
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
FILE NO.CMO-OE-A-GL-375/2024/903
DATE : 06.09.2024
E - TENDER CALL NOTICE
E-tenders are invited on behalf of Paradip Port Authority for the work : "Providing Various Technical/High Skilled Health Care Workers for PPA Hospital for a period of two years". The last date & time of submission of DT. 26.09.2024 on 17:15 Hrs. For details, please refer website : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.
Chief Medical Officer, PPA
PPA/PR/34/2024-2025 / 10.09.2024

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur.
RISL invites ebids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/EMD	Start of sale /Last date
NIB No. F3.3(524)/ RISL/PUR/2024-02478/4544 Dated 11.09.2024 (UBN: RIS2425SLOB00040)	Supply and Installation of Tableau licenses along with Hiring Technical Experts' services	Rs. 7.10 Cr/ Rs.14.20 lacs	11.09.2024 25.09.2024

Details can be seen on the websites http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5098 Additional Director

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT,
SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR
[Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302 001]
{Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2565647, Email - ms.smshospital@gmail.com}
No.----------Store/SMS/MH/2024/1877 Jaipur dated, the 09/09/2024
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for two years rate contract for procurement of Microbiology Reagents and Kits are invited from interested bidders up to 30/09/2024 on 5.00 PM. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
UBN No. MCJ2425GLOB00032
Medical Superintendent
S.M.S. Hospital,
DIPR/C/8516/2024 Jaipur

Office of The Additional Chief Engineer, PHED, Region-Kota
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for water supply works are invited from interested bidders upto 03-10-2024 18:00 Hours. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in website detail are following:-

NIT. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Date & time for online submission of tender
09/2024-25	Operation & Maintenance of Rewa Water Supply Project, District Jhalawar for 05 years UBN No. (PHE2425WSOB04507)	Rs. 400.49 Lacs	10.09.2024 at 10:00 Hrs upto 03.10.2024 (upto 18:00 Hrs)

(Shubhanshu Dixit)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED, Region, Kota
DIPR/C/8569/2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-55525
E-Tender Enq. No. 566/P-3/EMPW-12809 dated: 11.09.2024
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_126984_1 Breakdown/Preventive Maintenance & Overhauling of Bowl Mills (i.e. XRP-803 and HP-803), Raw Coal Feeders, mill reject system & its auxiliaries, preventive/ breakdown maintenance of coal pipes, removal/ clearing of mills reject, raw coal/coal dust from mills & R.C. Feeders areas; transportation of mill reject, coal dust etc. from mill area to CHP yard for four units i.e. 4X210MW (Unit no. 3 to 6) of BHEL make at GGSSTP, Rupnagar.
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from dated 11.09.24/01:00 PM onwards.
Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP - 109/24 76155/12/3432/2023/37576

INBRIEF

Delhi HC seeks NADA's stand on Bajrang Punia's plea

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the National Anti-Doping Agency to respond to a petition filed by wrestler Bajrang Punia challenging his suspension from participating in competitions after he refused to give samples for a dope test. The court issued notice to the agency on the plea moved by Mr. Punia, who was one of the wrestlers at the forefront of last year's protest against then Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. NADA's counsel said a disciplinary panel had been constituted and it was looking into the issue.Mr. Punia's counsel pressed for an interim relief citing the upcoming Senior World Wrestling Championships in Albania. However, the court said no formal application had been filed for the same.

Cabinet gives nod for building 62,000 km of rural roads

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the proposal of the Ministry of Rural Development for implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV) from financial year 2024-25 to 2028-29. The financial assistance is to be provided for the construction of 62,500 kilometres of all-weather roads for providing new connectivity to eligible 25,000 unconnected habitations along with construction and upgrading of bridges on the new connectivity roads, an official statement said. The flagship rural road construction programme has been provided with a total outlay of ₹70,125 crore, of which the central share is ₹49,087.50 crore and States' share is ₹21,037.50 crore. PMGSY-IV road alignment planning will be undertaken through the PM Gati Shakti portal. PTI

Centre gives clearance for 'Mission Mausam'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet approved 'Mission Mausam' on Wednesday with an outlay of ₹2,000 crore over two years.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences will be the nodal body implementing the mission. The aim of the programme will be to bolster research and development, and capacity in atmospheric sciences, weather surveillance, modelling, forecasting, and management.

Critical elements of Mission Mausam will include deploying next-generation radars and satellite systems .

Madrasas 'unfit' for proper education, NCPCR tells SC

Including a few NCERT books in the curriculum is a mere guise in the name of imparting education and does not ensure that children are receiving formal and quality education, it says

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The NCPCR highlighted issues of curriculum, eligibility of teachers, opaque funding, and others. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the top child rights protection body in the country, has told the Supreme Court that madrasas are "unsuitable or unfit" places for children to receive "proper education".

The NCPCR, represented by senior advocate Swarupama Chaturvedi and advocate Abhaid Parikh, made the submission in response to petitions challenging an Allahabad High Court judgment which struck down the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act, 2004.

The commission said the textbooks in madrasas "profess supremacy of Islam". "Merely teaching a few NCERT books in the curriculum is a mere guise in the name of imparting education and does not ensure that the children are receiving formal and quality education," it argued.

The NCPCR highlighted issues of curriculum, eligibility of teachers, opaque funding, violation of land laws, and failure to provide children a holistic environment as problems associated with madrasas.

"The teachers appointed in madrasas are largely dependent on the conventional methods used in learning Koran and other religious texts. The 'scanty and unregularised' working in madrasas creates a haywire system which just stands alone on the conventional ground of religion," it said.

"Majority of madrasas have no idea as to how to plan social events or extracurricular activities, such as field trips, that could provide students with some level of experiential learning... Madrasa education is neither all-encompassing nor thorough. It is not helping children advance since it lacks so many crucial components of learning. Madrasas infringe on children's fundamental right to a good education by failing to provide these basic requirements. Children are denied not only a suitable education but also a healthy atmosphere and improved opportunities for growth," the commission said.

It said children from faiths other than Islam were also studying in madrasas in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Providing Islamic religious education to non-Muslims was a violation of Article 28(3) of the Constitution, which upholds the right against forced participation in religious instruction or worship.

The High Court had ordered the transfer of madrasa students to regular schools. The top court stayed the implementation of the High Court decision in April. On Wednesday, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the petitions would be taken up for a detailed hearing soon.

Taking Uttar Pradesh's case, the NCPCR drew the court's attention to the Darul Uloom Deoband Madrasa founded in Deoband in Saharanpur district.

"According to the information available the Deoband Madrasa fanned out across South Asia and has also set up seminaries, or madrasas, teaching an austere version of Islam, particularly along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border... it has also been alleged by Taliban extremists groups to have been influenced by the religious and political ideologies of Darul Uloom Deoband Madrasa... the Deoband Madrasa issues fatwas online as well as offline and has a very strict and conservative interpretation of Sharia, as evidenced by its issuance of roughly 2,50,000 fatwas which restrict followers in terms of faith, life, and many other aspects," the NCPCR submitted.

"Though madrasas dot the country, only States such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand have Madrasa Boards. Large number of children attend madrasas that are either unrecognised or unmapped," the commission observed.

Cabinet approves health cover for all aged 70 and above

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Eligible senior citizens will get a new distinct card under Ayushman Bharat scheme.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above irrespective of income under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

This will benefit nearly 4.5 crore families with six crore senior citizens by providing ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover on a family basis.

New card

This scheme was one of the promises made in the BJP manifesto.

With this approval, persons aged 70 and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status, will be eligible to get the benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

The eligible senior citizens will be issued a new distinct card under the scheme.

Senior citizens belonging to families already covered under the AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover up to ₹5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with other members of the family who are below the age of 70).

All other senior citizens aged 70 and above will get a cover up to ₹5 lakh per year on a family basis. Senior citizens who are already getting benefits of other public health insurance schemes such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY.

It has been clarified that senior citizens aged 70 and above who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to get benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

"The AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme, which provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families," the Union government said in a release.

The expansion of cover to persons aged 70 and above was announced by Mr. Modi in April.

Centre to nudge banks to fund green energy projects

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

At an upcoming energy investment summit, all major banks and finance institutions will give notes about proposed loans. FILE PHOTO

To help meet India's ₹30 trillion funding requirements for installing 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is in talks with financial institutions, public and private sector banks, urging them to commit a portion of their loans to renewable energy projects.

At the forthcoming Re-Invest summit, scheduled in Gandhinagar next week, all major banks and financial institutions will be giving "*shapath patra*" (promissory notes) about their proposed loans or funding plans in the renewable energy sector, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said at a press briefing on Wednesday.

Such a "*shapath patra*" would be given by developers, manufacturers and private equity investors, he added.

"We have not specified any targets but banks are expected to give firm commitments. Only with the participation of banks and industry can India hope to attract finance to facilitate the renewable energy sector," said Mr. Joshi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the conference.

Hindu, Muslim groups urge people to send views on Waqf Bill to House panel

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

With just two days left for submitting suggestions to Parliament's Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, Muslim and Hindu organisations have intensified campaigns to ensure that people send their feedback.

Organisations such as the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the All India Muslim Personal Law Board are sharing Google forms on social media and messaging platforms to encourage people to submit their suggestions.

Small gatherings are also being organised to promote awareness of the Bill and the joint panel. Muslim groups are using Friday prayers as a platform to reach out, while Hindu groups are spreading the word through Ganesh puja pandals, evening prayers at temples, and resident welfare associations.

Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali, a member of the AIMPLB, said that a QR code had been uploaded on the website of the organisation which can be scanned by people to get a pre-drafted message on the objections to the Waqf Bill.

"We made a call to people to use our QR code to send suggestions to the committee through Friday prayers on September 6 and six lakh people used it within two hours," said Mr. Mahali. He added that till 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 82,70,231 mails had been sent to the committee.

'For and against'

The pre-drafted message of the AIMPLB says that the Bill should be "rejected completely". It says the proposed provisions indicate that the Bill has been designed to remove Waqf properties from their status as Waqf and to diminish the control of *mutawallis* (caretakers). It says the Bill violates the freedom of religion granted by the Constitution.

A similar appeal to reject the Bill was also made by Zakir Abdul Karim Naik, a religious leader who is abroad.

Reacting to the call of Mr. Naik, Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju took to X and said that people should not mislead innocent Muslims.

A pre-drafted letter is also being shared on WhatsApp and social media asking Hindus to send their suggestions to the panel in favour of the Bill. The letter has a reference to Tiruchendurai village in Tamil Nadu, which has a 1,500-year-old Hindu temple that was claimed as Waqf property. It points out how a survey of Waqf properties is done using taxpayers' money but no civil courts in the country can pass an order on Waqf disputes.

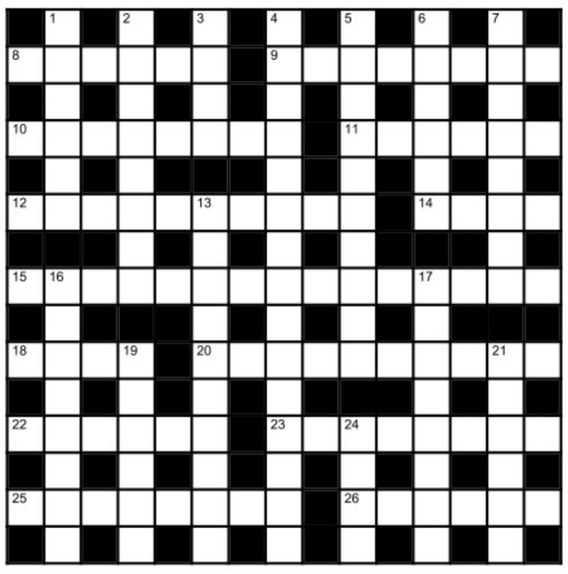
Vinod Bansal, spokesperson of the VHP, said the organisation was discussing the issue at small gatherings and through social media.

TH CROSSWORD + 14278

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Compulsion to wear clothes hiding uniform (6)
9 Dutiful old boy coming to pass on English book (8)
10 Repeatedly in favour of 'mum' as a matter of courtesy (3,5)
11 Important stuff in part to push buttons (6)
12 Showman fighting over primaries (10)
14 Hide son with relatives (4)
15 A constant nuisance, one coming from the Rose Garden? (5,2,3,5)
18 Objects laid getting rid of Yankee cracksmen (in the US) (4)
20 Stuff intercepted by port ends in Germany breaking coded message (10)
22 Feel at home in London when Mafia boss drops in to pray (6)
23 Chess expert acting lame to sacrifice (8)
25 Ready to accommodate adult wanting length adjusted to look stylish (3,1,4)
26 Authority to wield overwhelming power (6)

Down

1 Question to duck before strange people necessary to carry on business (6)
2 Say Magellan's notice delivered to king securing passage cost (8)
3 Customer is one who exploits? (4)
4 'Eyesore' from retinopathy intermittently agitates cast (3,1,6,5)
5 Point in time when easily influenced people in tow make merry (4,6)
6 Oracles retreating piously, bishop pinches some (6)
7 Usual practice, insurance covers and settles (8)
13 Sense to check plugs to brand electrical equipment (10)
16 Superior piping above spotless counter (6-2)
17 Spillers conceding runs, sadly including good fielders (3,5)
19 Society journal with a new catchphrase (6)
21 Places where religious rites are performed making a base for reforms (6)
24 Chaps taking one look (4)

SUDOKU

6		3		7				4
								5
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5		9					4	
			9		6			
	7					2		3
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	O	M	E	I	N	O	M	N
A	E	N	A	E	N	A	X	
M	A	R	S	E	I	L	L	E
P	R	F	B	T	E	S	U	
S	N	I	F	F	L	E	I	S
I	E	A	R	N	E	E		
T	H	R	O	B	T	A	G	A
E	L	E	G	E	L			
A	N	T	E	R	I	O	R	G
C	U	N	O	I	O	N		
L	A	T	C	H	E	S	U	P
I	C	A	T	N	L	S	E	
Q	U	A	R	T	E	N	D	E
U	S	C	I	S	T	M	I	
E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	6	9	1	5	3	8	7
5	9	3	8	6	7	4	1	2
8	7	1	2	4	3	6	9	5
1	3	2	7	5	4	8	6	9
7	6	4	3	8	9	5	2	1
9	5	8	1	2	6	7	3	4
3	8	5	4	9	2	1	7	6
2	4	7	6	3	1	9	5	8
6	1	9	5	7	8	2	4	3

FAITH

Steely resolve of Mahabali

In His avataras like Matsya and Kurma, Lord Vishnu slayed the rakshasas who were His foes. But in the Vamana avatar, He spared King Mahabali, grandson of Prahlada, because Lord Narasimha assured Prahlada that He would not kill his progeny. Sengalipuram Sri Damodhara Dikshitar said in a discourse that His manifestation of Vamana (as a dwarf) was so handsome. Had the Lord thought, He would have descended as a celibate straightaway, but He chose to be born as the son to sage Kashyapa and his wife Adhithi and cherished following religious procedures.

The difference between 'dharma' and 'dhana' is that in the former, charity is given without expecting anything in return, while in the latter, it is given with anticipation. In the sacrificial performance of king Mahabali, the Lord appeared as a young celibate. The king asked Him what He wanted and the dwarf said He required just three feet of space. The king promised to give the same. Sukracharya, the king's guru, ascertained the true identity of the alms-seeker and tried to prevent the king from executing his promise. The guru said telling lies in times of danger is not a sin, and so he wanted the king to tell God that he told a lie and could not uphold his promise. But the king refused the Acharya's command and said telling lies would plunge a person into danger and fulfilled his promise.

INBRIEF

Ceat aims to capture 12% market share in 2 years: CEO

Tyre major Ceat Ltd. aims to increase its market share in the domestic market by 50% and is targeting ₹17,000-crore revenue over the next two years, said CEO and MD Arnab Banerjee. "Currently, we have a market share of 7-8% and we would like to increase it to 12-13% over the next two to three years," he told the media. On Wednesday, Mr. Banerjee announced the commissioning of a ₹670-crore Truck Bus Radial (TBR) tyre plant near Chennai.

Govt. taking inputs to amend MSME Development Act

The Centre plans to amend the MSME Development Act 2006, said officials of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). The Ministry was holding meetings with stakeholders to get inputs in this regard, the officials told *The Hindu* in Coimbatore on Wednesday. At an interactive meeting held with industry associations on Tuesday, the officials said several inputs presented by the industry would be considered when the Act is amended.

Lemonn app builds 5 lakh user base in 5 months

Investment app Lemonn, started in April 2024 by PeepalCo, said it had built a user base of five lakh in the first five months. Lemonn said about 36% of the total users were first-time investors. The app offers options to invest in mutual funds, direct stocks, IPOs, and trade in Futures and Options. "Our goal is to make investing accessible for everyone. Reaching five lakh users in just five months is a strong indicator that we are on the right path," said co-founder Ashish Singhal.

Cabinet approves ₹10,900-cr. scheme for e-mobility push

PM E-Drive scheme aims to enable procurement of e-buses, setting up 72,000 charging stations; plan offers subsidies or demand incentives worth ₹3,679 crore, says Ministry of Heavy Industries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a scheme with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore to provide for procurement of e-buses as well as for setting up more than 72,000 charging stations for EV batteries in cities and on highways to address 'range anxiety' among buyers.

The scheme, named PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive), will be valid for two years.

Charge booster

PM E-Drive scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to address range anxiety among EV buyers

- Scheme, valid for two years, will support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, 14,028 e-buses
- ₹4,391 cr. for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by State transport undertakings of 9 cities
- ₹2,000 cr. to set up charging stations in cities with high EV penetration and on some select highways

According to a press statement from the Ministry of Heavy Industries, the scheme also offers subsidies or demand incentives worth ₹3,679 crore for e-two wheelers (e-2Ws), e-three wheelers (e-3Ws), e-ambulances, and e-trucks to buyers. The scheme will support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14,028 e-buses, the Ministry added. A total of ₹4,391 crore will be set aside under the scheme for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by state transport undertakings for 9 cities with a population of more than 40 lakh, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad.

The scheme also provides for ₹2,000 crore to set up charging stations in select cities with high EV penetration and on some specified highways.

Tata Steel inks £500 million grant accord with U.K. govt.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Steel Ltd. announced the signing of a £500 million grant funding agreement with the U.K. government allowing it to proceed at pace with the project to install an electric arc furnace at the Port Talbot steelworks in Wales.

The £1.25 billion project will safeguard U.K.'s steel sovereignty, secure steel making in Port Talbot and preserve 5,000 jobs, the Tata group company said in a statement.

Modi reaffirms plan to back chip facilities

The Hindu Bureau
NOIDA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday reaffirmed a commitment to pump in tens of thousands of crores into establishing a domestic base for manufacturing integrated circuits and other associated components in India.

India was not following a "let the chips fall where they may" attitude, but was instead focussed on "increasing the number of chips produced in India," Mr. Modi asserted at the Semicon India summit.

Narendra Modi

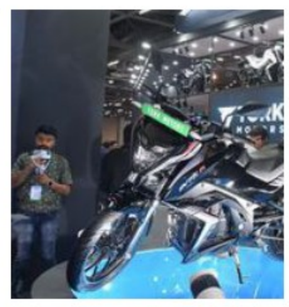
Citing India's record increase in mobile phone assembly as an encouraging statistic, the PM also cited resilience as a factor, saying: "We want to create a world that continues to operate without stopping, even in times of crisis."

SC to hear appeal against Byju's BCCI deal Sept. 17

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear on September 17 an appeal filed by U.S.-based creditor Glas Trust Company LLC against an order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) allowing edtech firm Byju's to pay a settlement amount of ₹158 crore to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud fixed September 17 as hearing date.



Indian EV market to soar to $120 bn by 2030: experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Indian EV market is projected to surge from $34.8 billion in 2024 to $120 billion by 2030, with batteries fuelling advancements in EVs and renewable energy storage, according to industry experts.

"India's economic growth and focus on clean energy are driving a surge in battery demand," Informa Markets in India MD Yogesh Mudras said during a media roundtable.

"Government initiatives such as relaxed FDI norms and the establishment of Khanij Bidesh India [a joint venture between three PSUs to ensure mineral security of the nation] to secure critical minerals, are reducing reliance on imports and strengthening the country's position in the global market," he said.

The speakers said Tamil Nadu emerged as India's leading auto-manufacturing hub, contributing 40% of the EV output last year.

They also announced the second edition of Battery Show India to be held with the 17th edition of Renewable Energy India Expo at Greater Noida for three days from October 3.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,523	-0.49
US Dollar	83.99	-0.01
Gold	74,600	0.67
Brent oil	70.27	1.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2937.85	-48.55
Adani Ports	1430.60	-22.80
Apollo Hosp	6900.25	-21.30
Asian Paints	3367.45	72.40
Axis Bank	1186.10	-1.10
Bajaj Auto	11420.75	433.00
Bajaj Finserv	1833.15	8.65
Bajaj Finance	7345.55	103.70
Bharti Airtel	1577.80	-0.05
BPCL	340.25	-5.70
Britannia Ind	6008.65	38.75
Cipla	1628.35	-3.65
Coal India	483.95	-7.15
Divis Lab	5439.30	12.85
Dr Reddys Lab	6612.50	-37.90
Eicher Motors	4726.65	-10.55
Grasim Ind	2681.15	-21.40
HCL Tech	1778.75	-0.35
HDFC Bank	1643.90	-6.45
HDFC Life	700.15	-2.75
Hero MotoCorp	5654.45	-15.25
Hindalco	647.70	-11.80
Hind Unilever	2904.15	5.55
ICICI Bank	1236.35	-0.95
IndusInd Bank	1421.20	-14.35
Infosys	1910.15	-2.15
ITC	514.35	0.75
JSW Steel	927.75	-11.00
Kotak Bank	1789.25	-2.35
L&T	3536.95	-59.20
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6299.30	-44.05
M&M	2654.25	-35.75
Maruti Suzuki	12242.60	-20.80
NestleIndia	2526.85	-8.65
NTPC	389.65	-6.65
ONGC	285.30	-10.30
PowerGrid Corp	333.20	-0.95
Reliance Ind	2903.00	-20.05
SBI Life	1859.15	5.70
State Bank	768.60	-14.05
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3279.90	19.85
Sun Pharma	1845.70	9.35
TataConsumerProduct	1204.40	0.25
Tata Motors	976.30	-59.50
Tata Steel	148.17	-1.25
TCS	4479.35	-28.50
Tech Mahindra	1602.60	-4.80
Titan	3711.10	-16.30
UltraTech Cement	11487.45	-53.60
Wipro	514.35	-11.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 11

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.78	84.10
Euro	92.58	92.93
British Pound	109.64	110.07
Japanese Yen (100)	59.10	59.33
Chinese Yuan	11.78	11.83
Swiss Franc	99.00	99.38
Singapore Dollar	64.32	64.58
Canadian Dollar	61.68	61.92
Malaysian Ringitt	19.34	19.43
Australian Dollar	55.85	56.07

Source:Indian Bank

Will protect interests of 100 million small retailers, says Goyal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said the government will protect the interests of 100 million small retailers, who are facing competition from major e-commerce players. Last month, the minister lambasted the e-commerce companies, questioning their business models that have been impacting the small retailers.

"I assure you that we will continue to work with you to meet the aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians for a better quality of life... the aspiration of a 100 million small retailers, the small mom-and-pop stores, that have disappeared from the U.S. landscape, which we are at least making an effort to protect to some extent," he said.

Piyush Goyal

Mr. Goyal was addressing members of the India-U.S. business council.

He also said that the U.S.-India CEO forum will meet on October 2-3 in Washington to further their commercial dialogue.

Northern Arc Capital to open bids for IPO on Sept. 16

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Northern Arc Capital Limited will open bids for an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to raise new equity worth ₹500 crore on September 16, the company said in a statement.

The Chennai-based debt platform's initial shareholders would also offer for sale 10.5 crore shares. Northern Arc fixed the IPO price band between ₹249 and ₹263.

The company, which will close bids for the IPO by September 19, said that it planned to use the proceeds of the fresh issue "to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending".

Wet grinder makers seek lowering of GST rate to 12%, from 18%

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Wet grinder manufacturers sought a GST rate reduction, from 18% to 12%, at a meeting with MSME Ministry officials on Tueday.

But some officials were not aware of this kitchen appliance that is popular across south India. So industry representatives explained a wet grinder's use – to make idli/dosa batter.

C. Balachandran, president of the Coimbatore Wet Grinders Accessories Manufacturers Association, said the appliance that has a Geographical Indication tag, is mainly made in Coimbatore by about 150 MSME units.

When GST was introduced, it attracted 28% duty. However, the atta chakki used in north India attracted only 5% GST.

This anomaly was pointed out to the Central government and the wet grinder's GST rate had been reduced to 12% and then to 5% in 2019.

But in 2022 it was again revised to 18% for both wet grinders and chakkis.

Abu Dhabi awards onshore block rights to BPCL-IOC JV

The Supreme Council for Financial and Economic Affairs (SCFEA), Abu Dhabi, has awarded oil and gas production rights for an onshore block to a 50:50 special purpose vehicle of Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation.

पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका, पिंपरी – ४११०१८
वैद्यकीय विभाग
निविदा क्र. ०१ /२०२४ –२०२६

पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिकेच्या दवाखाने/रूग्णालयांसाठी दैनंदिन तातडीने आवश्यक असणारे औषधे / साहीत्याचा पुरवठा करणेकामी महाराष्ट्र शासनाचे www.mahatenders.gov.in वर नाव नोंदणी झालेल्या अधिकृत विक्रेते /वितरक यांचेकडुन निविदा पध्दतीने दोन वर्षाकरिता निविदा मागविणेत येत आहे.

अ. क्र.	तपशिल	अंदाजे खर्च र. रु.	बयाणा र. रु.	अनामत र. रु.	फॉर्म फी	कामाची मुदत
१	मनपाचे दवाखाने/ रुग्नालायांकरिता तातडीने दैनंदिन आवश्यक असणाऱ्या Non Generic औषधांचा पुरवठा करणे.	६,००,००,०००/-	१२,००,०००/-	६०,००,०००/-	५१,५२०/-	२ वर्ष
२	मनपाचे दवाखाने/ रुग्नालायांकरिता तातडीने दैनंदिन आवश्यक असणाऱ्या Generic औषधांचा पुरवठा करणे.	५,००,०००/-				
३	मनपाचे दवाखाने/ रुग्नालायांकरिता तातडीने दैनंदिन आवश्यक असणाऱ्या **सर्जिकल साहित्याचा** पुरवठा करणे.	५,७०,००,०००/-				
४	मनपाचे रुग्णालयाकरीता MJPJAY या योजनेतील रुग्णांकरीता आवश्यक असणारे Orthopaedic Implant पुरवठा करणे	२५,००,०००/-				

अ.क्र	निविदा कामकाज	दिनांक व वेळ
१)	ई निविदा उपलब्ध कालावधी	दि. १०/०९/२०२४ ते दि. २५/०९/२०२४
२)	निविदा स्विकृती अंतिम दिनांक व वेळ	दि. २५/०९/२०२४ दुपारी ०३.०० वा पर्यत.
३)	निविदापुर्व बैठक दिनांक व वेळ	दि. १३/०९/२०२४ सकाळी. १२.०० वा
४)	निविदा क्र. ०१/२०२४–२०२६ चे कामासाठी निविदापुर्व बैठक स्थळ(Pre Bid Meting)	वैद्यकिय विभाग पिं.चिं. मनपा, पिंपरी, पुणे ४११०१८
५)	निविदा उघडणेचा दिनांक	दि. २६ /०९/२०२४ (शक्य झाल्यास)

पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिकेच्या दवाखाने/ रूग्णालयासाठी आवश्यक असणाऱ्या औषधे / साहीत्य खरेदीकामी निविदा पध्दतीने दोन वर्षाकरिता (सन २०२४–२०२६) निविदा मागविणेत येत आहे. यासाठी शॉप अॅक्ट, ड्रग लायसन्स, GST प्रमाणपत्र,पॅन कार्ड इत्यादी कागदपत्रे आवश्यक आहेत. सदरची निविदा महाराष्ट्र शासनाचे www.mahatenders.gov.in या संकेतस्थळाद्वारे भरावयाची आहे. याकामी पुरवठाधारकांनी केंद्र शासनाचे संकेतस्थळावर नोंदणी करणे आवश्यक आहे.

सदरची निविदा दि – १०/०९/२०२४ ते दि – २५/०९/२०२४ अखेर दुपारी ३.०० वाजेपर्यंत वेबसाईट वरुनच भरता येईल कोणतेही कारण न देता सदर निविदा कोणत्याही स्तरावर पुर्णत: किंवा अंशत: मंजुर किंवा नामंजुर करण्याचा अधिकार मा. आयुक्त यांनी राखुन ठेवला आहे.

आवश्यक कागदपत्रे,निविदा अटी व शर्ती या संदर्भातील सर्व माहिती महाराष्ट्र शासनाचे www.mahatenders.gov.in वर उपलब्ध राहील.

सही/–
आयुक्त
पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका,
पिंपरी, ४११०१८

जाहिरात क्रमांक :– १६१/२०२४
क्रमांक वैद्य /४ अ/ कावि /१०/२०२४
दिनांक : १०/०९/२०२४

'Paper manufacturers investing ₹25,000 crore on capacity, tech'

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Paper and paperboard manufacturers in India are implementing capacity expansion, de-bottlenecking as well as technology upgradation projects involving an investment of ₹25,000 crore, a top leader of Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) said.

"A million tonne in capacity will be added. But it's not as much about capacity as the focus on modernisation, de-bottlenecking and replacing old technology. Around ₹5,000 crore of the investment will be on new technology to help lower carbon footprint," IPMA president Pawan Agarwal said on Tuesday.

Pawan Agarwal

His company Naini Papers, of which he is the managing director, is setting up a 1.25 lakh tonne plant with ₹2,000 crore investment in Uttarakhand to make paper pouches that will replace single use plastics used in food packaging.

Mr. Agarwal, who was in Hyderabad for the two day PaperTech 2024 conference and exhibition, said the investments assume significance amid rising demand for the products, particularly an enhanced offtake from the e-commerce sector, and new avenues opening up by virtue of paper being environment friendly and biodegradable.

"There is a lot of expected demand for paper industry and products. E-commerce has driven the demand and we expect 8.2% CAGR for the next five years, which is similar to the GDP growth," he said.

Zebra develops crime probe tools for police

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Zebra Technologies, a U.S.-based $4.58 billion firm that offers mobile computing products, barcode printers and scanning solutions to enterprises and governments in India and across the globe, has developed two high-tech solutions to help the police.

These are: a digital police investigation tool kit code named Yatharth, which Zebra Technologies developed in collaboration with Sanpri Technologies and a 3D Forensic Mapping Solution developed at its Bengaluru R&D centre.

The digital police investigation tool kit captures still images and videos of crime scenes with GPS locations and prepares digital statements with date and time accurately stamped to prevent any kind of evidence tampering, the company said.

Digitally-recorded statements created by this kit allows witnesses and investigation officers to refresh memories of panchnamas during court trials and also deter witnesses from turning hostile.

The second platform viz. 3D Forensic Mapping Solution helps in collecting crime and crash scenes faster and more comprehensively without missing any critical details helping in reducing human error.

BAGHDAD

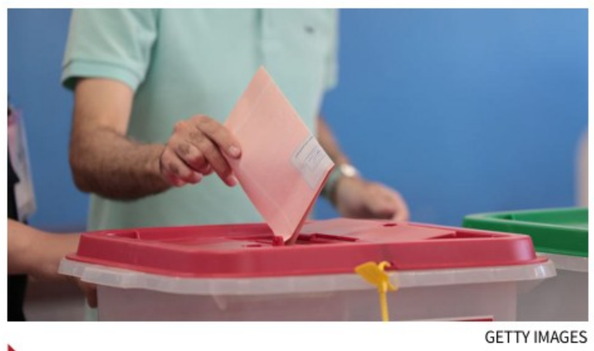
Iranian President Pezeshkian deepens Iraq ties on maiden trip

AFP

Iran and Iraq signed a dozen deals to deepen already strong ties as Masoud Pezeshkian (left, in picture) visited Baghdad on his first foreign trip as President. The three-day trip comes amid crisis in West Asia sparked by the Gaza war, which has drawn in Iran-backed armed groups and complicated Iraq's relations with the U.S. AFP

AMMAN

Islamist Opposition party tops Jordan polls, but shy of majority

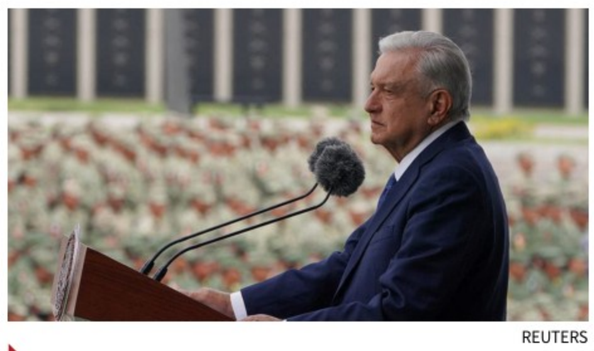


GETTY IMAGES

Jordan's leading Islamist opposition party has won 31 out of 138 seats in the kingdom's parliament, tripling its representation in the house. The Islamic Action Front, the political offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, came ahead of other parties after Tuesday's vote, but fell shy of forming a majority, official results showed. AFP

MEXICO CITY

Mexico becomes first country to approve popular election of judges



REUTERS

Mexico became the world's first country to allow voters to elect judges at all levels, after protesters invaded the Upper House and suspended debate on the issue. Outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador had pushed hard for the reform and criticised the current judicial system for serving the interests of the elite. AFP

NEW YORK

Pop singer Taylor Swift endorses Kamala Harris for U.S. President

AFP

Taylor Swift, a self-declared "childless cat lady" and one of the world's most popular and influential stars, has endorsed Kamala Harris for President of the U.S. Swift broke her silence on Tuesday, voicing support for Ms. Harris over Donald Trump, and calling the Democratic candidate a "steady-handed, gifted leader." AFP

In southern Sri Lanka, a chant for change in this poll season

Those who seek continuity see President Ranil Wickremesinghe as a preferred choice, while others who demand change are divided between Sajith Premadasa and Anura Dissanayake

Meera Srinivasan
KURUNEGALA

Buddhika Dissanayake says she has never had to think so hard before an election. "Earlier, we voted for the party that our family backed for generations, it was an easy choice," says the middle-aged voter in Kurunegala district, in Sri Lanka's North Western Province. With hardly a fortnight left for the island nation's crucial presidential election, she is undecided.

Her dilemma is not uncommon among Sri Lankan voters. Over the past five years, the country's political landscape and economic path have altered drastically.

In the eight presidential elections preceding this, the country's two major political camps – the centre-left Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the centre-right United National Party (UNP), or their political offshoots – fielded a candidate each. But this time, voters are navigating a more complex electoral field with three main contestants. Incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe is running as an independent candidate. His two foremost challengers, Sajith Premadasa and Anura Kumara Dissanayake, are in opposition. "We must think hard and choose carefully," Ms. Dissanayake says. "Whoever is elected must wipe out corruption that is rampant, and rebuild our economy."

When Sri Lanka's economy crashed in 2022, it triggered a mass uprising that not only protested shortages and power cuts, but emphatically rejected the old, "corrupt" political order they despised. The agitating citizens demanded "system change".

Dire straits: Over the past five years, Sri Lanka's political landscape and economic path have altered drastically. MEERA SRINIVASAN

Chant for change

It is that chant for change that has now evolved as the chief election logic guiding many Sri Lankan voters. "In 2022, when people chased away the Rajapaksas, they showed they have the power. In this election, we need someone new, someone different. We need change," says homemaker Chula Mihirani.

Local and global economists endlessly debate Sri Lanka's economic recovery and debt treatment policies, but Ms. Mihirani sees the crisis persisting in her home. "The cost of living is unbearable. My son is sitting for his school final exam, we cannot afford private tuition or transport for him."

The last time economic concerns dominated a national election in Sri Lanka was in 1977, before the raging ethnic conflict took centre stage. Cashing in on the voter resentment over then Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike's policies of import substitution and food rationing, J.R. Jayewardene defeated her in a landslide. Nearly half a century later, President Wickremesinghe, who is Mr. Jayewardene's nephew, is seeking a mandate to take forward his government's ongoing economic reform agenda, shaped by an IMF programme.

While his backers credit him for removing fuel queues from the roads and bringing in some fiscal stability, critics point to the painful austerity measures that especially affect families like Ms. Mihirani's.

Meanwhile, the once formidable Rajapaksa surname hardly figures in the context of the coming election. A total of 38 contestants are in the race, but the real contest is limited to three candidates.

Some, particularly in Colombo, see value in continuity if Mr. Wickremesinghe wins, while those decidedly voting for change are divided between Mr. Premadasa and Mr. Dissanayake. "Although Mr. Premadasa comes from an established political party, he has never had the chance to lead the country," says Fathima Rinosha, making a case for a known, even if untested, leader.

Mr. Premadasa is also seen as a preferred candidate in the hill country among Malaiyaha Tamil voters, including on the tea estates. Additionally, southern voters, who have troubling memories of the armed insurrections led by Mr. Dissanayake's party [the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] in 1971 and 1987-89, seem more comfortable with Mr. Premadasa, observes Kurunegala-based women's rights activist Sumika Perera.

All the same, some voters say Mr. Premadasa does not represent a clean break from the old political system that they are tired of. He was with the UNP before breaking away to lead the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB). "Ranil and Sajith are two sides of the same coin," says K. Wijerathna, a trader in the neighbouring Matale district.

"We use all our earnings to meet the increased living costs and don't save a penny. We need a complete system overhaul," he says, adding "AKD", [as Mr. Dissanayake is referred to] is the only leader who can weed out corruption and bring about change. He is not part of that corrupt political class."

U.K. government imposes sanctions on 10 ships from Russia's 'shadow fleet'

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K. government, on Wednesday, announced sanctions on a "shadow fleet" of 10 Russian oil tankers that it has alleged were circumventing Western oil sanctions.

The announcement coincided with a trip to Kyiv by U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is on a trip to the U.K. and continental Europe. The announcement comes on the heels of Tuesday's sanctions announcement from the U.K, France and Germany, who announced curbs on Iran for supplying missiles to Russia.

The EU and Group of Seven countries, including the U.K., are among those who have participated in U.S.-led sanctions on Russian oil, with petroleum being a critical source of funding for Russia's war with Ukraine. The G-7 instituted a price cap of $60 per barrel of Russian oil in December 2022.

The news coincided with a trip to Kyiv by U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy, right, and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken. AP

Wednesday's sanctions bring the total number of ships on the U.K.'s proscribed list to 25. The tankers will not be allowed to dock at U.K. ports.

"Putin's war machine is funded by a dark and illicit economic system that this government is committed to destabilising," Mr. Lammy said.

Three of the vessels on the new sanctions list, *Nikolay Zuyev*, *NS Asia* and *Zaliv Aniva*, have, between them, transported more than $5 billion of Russian oil since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

"Russia has been forced to spend over $8 billion amassing this shadow fleet. But with sanctioned tankers loitering and unable to load oil, we are determined to make Putin's investment an expensive misstep for the Kremlin," Mr. Lammy added.

India is one of the top purchasers of oil from Russia, a move New Delhi has defended on grounds of national interest and market dynamics. The issue was discussed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Mr. Modi's visit to Kyiv in August, when the Ukrainian President had urged India to stop purchases from Moscow.

Harris gets under Trump's skin in fiery U.S. presidential debate

Agence France-Presse
PHILADELPHIA

Kamala Harris put Donald Trump on the defensive in a fiery televised debate on Tuesday, getting under her rival's skin as they battled for a breakthrough in an agonisingly close U.S. presidential election. The Democrat baited the "extreme" Republican into angry responses on issues ranging from abortion to democracy and foreign policy.

The 59-year-old U.S. Vice-President managed to knock former President Trump off his game in their first and only scheduled showdown, which featured a series of bitter personal attacks on both sides.

Mr. Trump said afterwards that the ABC News-hosted clash in Philadelphia was his "best debate" but snap polls and commentators said Ms. Harris had won, with her campaign quickly challenging him to a second debate in October.

'Bunch of lies'

One of their most intense exchanges was on abortion.

Mr. Trump insisted that while having pushed for the end of the federal right to abortion, he wanted individual States to make their own policy.

Ms. Harris said he was telling a "bunch of lies" and called his policies "insulting to the women of America."

Another jarring clash came as Mr. Trump doubled down on his unprecedented refusal to accept losing to Mr. Biden in the 2020 election, before trying to overturn the result.

Ms. Harris responded by mocking his catchphrase as a reality TV star, saying that Mr. Trump had been "fired by 81 million people" and calling him a threat to democracy.

Gaza rescuers say 10 killed in Israeli strike on school

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

An Israeli air strike on Wednesday hit a central Gaza school, with the Hamas-run territory's civil defence agency reporting 10 killed in the facility turned displacement shelter and the military saying it had targeted militants.

Israeli forces have struck several such schools in recent months. The al-Jawni school in Nuseirat, already hit several times during the war, was struck again on Wednesday.

Sport

TN creates new mixed 4x100m medley National record

NATIONAL AQUATICS

Sports Bureau
MANGALURU

Karnataka's Aneesh Gowda (8:20.01s) won the men's 800m freestyle event in the 77th Senior National aquatic championship at the International Aquatic Complex here on Wednesday.

The mixed 4x100m medley saw Tamil Nadu's Pramiti Gnanasekaran, Danush Suresh, Bendiction Rohit, and Deeksha Sivakumar create a new record of 4:05.30s.

The results: Men: 800m freestyle: Aneesh Gowda (Kar) 8:20.01s; **200m medley:** Vinayak Vijay (SSCB) 2:07.73s. **100m freestyle:** Srihari Nataraj (Kar) 50.59s; **50m breaststroke:** Vidith Shankar (Kar) 28.62s. **Women: 1500m freestyle:** Vritti Agarwal (Tel) 17:45.63s; **200m medley:** Shreenithi Natesan (TN) 2:25.52s. **100m freestyle:** Mahi Swetraj (Bih) 58.54s; **50m breaststroke:** Avni Chhabra (Pun) 33.76s. **Mixed 4x100m medley:** Tamil Nadu (Pramiti Gnanasekaran, Danush Suresh, Bendiction Rohit, Deeksha Sivakumar) 4:05.30 (NR; Old: Maharashtra, 4:06.84s, 2023); **4x100m freestyle:** Maharashtra (Deepti Raghunath, Heer Gitesh, Aditi Satish, Rishabh Anupam) 3:43.13s.

Triumphant: Aneesh Gowda clinched the 800m freestyle title. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Siddharth, Pooja and Abinaya break meet records

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

India's Siddharth Choudhary (19.19m) and Pooja (1.80m) created new meet records in the men's shot put and women's high jump events respectively in the South Asian junior athletics meet here on Wednesday. Abinaya Rajarajan of India, too, clinched the gold in the women's 100m in a record time (11.77s).

Sri Lanka dominated the middle distance events, winning gold in men's and women's 800m events.

The results: Men: 100m: 1. Wijesinghe Merone (Sri Lanka) 10.41s (NMR) (OR: A. Yesudas, 10.61, Ranchi, 2013), 2. Weeraratna Dineth (SL) 10.49, 3. Mruthyam Rajaram (IND) 10.56; **800m:** 1. H.D. Shavindu Awishka (SL) 1:49.83s (NMR) (OR: P. Verma, 1:52.99, Colombo, 2007), 2. Vinod Kumar (IND) 1:50.07, 3. Bopanna Klappa (IND) 1:50.45; **Shot put:** 1. Siddharth Choudhary (IND) 19.19m (NMR) (OR: A. Bhalothia, 18.53, 2018, Colombo), 2. Anurag Singh Kaler (IND) 18.91, 3. A. W. Jayavi Ranhidha (SL) 15.62.

Women: 100m: 1. Abinaya Rajarajan (IND) 11.77s (NMR) (OR: A. Silva, 11.92, 2018, Colombo), 2. V. Sudheeksha (IND) 11.92, 3. S. Wijetungage (SL) 12.04; **800m:** 1. M.G.T. Abhisheka Premasiri (SL) 2:10.17, 2. Laxmi Priya Kisan (IND) 2:10.87, 3. U.M. Sansala Himashani (SL) 2:12.13; **High jump:** 1. Pooja (IND) 1.80m (NMR) (OR: D. Ranasinghe, 1.75m, 2007, Colombo), 2. D.K. Timeshi (SL) 1.65m, 3. V.P. Nethra Samadi (SL) 1.65m.

AFI to restructure domestic competition

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has plans to restructure the domestic competition and qualification system for major international events from the new (2025) season, AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said at a press conference here on Wednesday.

"To qualify for major international events the athletes will have to compete in a certain number of domestic competitions to earn valuable points," Sumariwalla said.

The 2025 Asian Athletics Championships and World Athletics Championships are two major events next year. The AFI president said athletes, after qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, weren't able to sustain their performance.

"There was a sudden decline in the performance in Paris. The athletes should have clocked a personal best or advanced to the final of their respective events."

Sumariwalla said emphasis will be on regional competitions from the next calendar year. "The athletes will get more opportunity to compete close to their homes. The athletes will train at regional centres and places of their choice. There is a plan to have at least 30 domestic competitions from next season."

Lalit Bhanot, president of South Asian Athletics Federation, said SAAF has plans to conduct the South Asian senior meet in Ranchi in October and a cross country event in Pakistan. "As for the cross country, the dates will be known later because Pakistan has suggested some dates which we have asked for some amendment," he said.

Streamlining

Bhanot admitted that the South Asian junior meets have not been held in a regular manner, and said he has plans to streamline it. "We are now trying to streamline it that it will be held if not every year, at least every alternate year."

ALL SET

Indian team to arrive in Chennai in batches ahead of Bangladesh Test

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

The Indian players will arrive in batches on Thursday in Chennai ahead of the first Test of the two-match series against Bangladesh, which starts on September 19. Star batter Virat Kohli is expected to join a day later. The Rohit Sharma-led side is likely to begin training on Friday. Bangladesh is expected to arrive on Sunday.

DIFFERENT BALL GAME

It will be harder to face SG balls: Bangladesh's Litton on India Tests

AFP

Bangladesh's batting star Litton Das believes that facing the red 'SG Test' ball in India would present an entirely different test for the team. "The ball will be a different one in India. It is a little harder to play against the SG ball. The Kookaburra is easier to play when it gets old. It is the opposite with the SG," Litton said.

UP FOR IT

Rohit, Kohli and Pant are probably going to be really big ones: Lyon

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Australia spinner Nathan Lyon has identified Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh Pant as the three "big ones" to watch out for in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series. "Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh Pant are probably going to be the three really big ones," Lyon told Star Sports.

BONANZA

'2023 ODI World Cup generated economic impact of $1.39 billion'

REUTERS

The 2023 ODI World Cup in India created an "economic impact" of $1.39 billion with tourism among the biggest beneficiaries. "The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 has demonstrated the significant economic power of cricket, generating economic benefit of $1.39 billion for India," ICC Chief Executive, Geoff Allardice said.

Raj Kumar on the prowl as India hammers Malaysia

Araijeet scores a brace while Jugraj, Harmanpreet and Uttam find the target once each as Harmanpreet's men register their third successive win and climb to the top of the table; the Indians will take on Korea in their next match today

ACT

Press Trust of India
HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

Young striker Raj Kumar Pal struck a hat-trick as title-holder India sealed a semi-final spot after thrashing Malaysia 8-1 for its third consecutive win in the Hero Asian Champions Trophy hockey here on Wednesday.

Apart from Raj Kumar (third, 25th and 33rd minutes), Araijeet Singh Hundal (sixth and 39th), Jugraj Singh (seventh), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (22nd), and Uttam Singh (40th) sounded the boards for India.

For Malaysia, Akhimullah Anuar (34th) found the target.

India is currently on top with nine points from three wins.

On a roll: Raj Kumar was in the thick of things for India, scoring three goals. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Round-robin format

The six-team tournament is being played in a round-robin format and the top four will advance to the semifinals on September 16, followed by the final on September 17.

India had earlier defeated China 3-0 in before getting the better of Japan 5-1.

India will next take on Korea on Thursday before finishing its league engagements against Pakistan on Saturday.

Against Malaysia, the odds were against India going by recent results.

The last match between these two sides was the final of the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy where India trailed 1-3 at half-time. In that game, the Indians came roaring back to eventually register a 4-3 win and claim the title.

Relentless attacks

The Indians began with relentless attacks in the first quarter. Raj Kumar didn't take long to hand the lead, scoring a solo goal displaying incredible stickwork.

Three minutes later, Araijeet doubled India's lead by finding the corner of the Malaysian post.

A minute later, Jugraj made it 3-0 with a perfect penalty corner conversion off a powerful drag-flick.

Malaysia started on an aggressive note in the second quarter and soon earned a penalty corner but the Indian defence stood tall.

India secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 22nd minute and Harmanpreet buried the ball into the Malaysian goal with a vintage flick to extend the lead.

Minutes later, Raj Kumar scored his second after being set up by Araijeet and Uttam as India went into half-time with a commanding 5-0 lead.

Three minutes after the change of ends, Raj Kumar scored his first hat-trick at senior level from a rebound after vice-captain Vivek Sagar Prasad's initial strike was saved by the Malaysian goalkeeper.

Malaysia managed to pull a goal back soon through Anaur.

But there was no stopping India as Araijeet scored a field goal, tapping in Nilakanta Sharma's pass and then a minute later, Uttam was on target off a rebound from a penalty corner.

Pakistan pips Japan

In another contest, Pakistan downed Japan 2-1 to improve its chance of reaching the last-four stage.

Tanay's five-for does the trick for Hyderabad

Gaining momentum: Hyderabad will buoyed by the Buchi Babu triumph before playing in the Elite group in the upcoming Ranji Trophy. G. MOORTHY

BUCHI BABU

S. Dipak Ragav
DINDIGUL

Hyderabad clinched the Buchi Babu title in style, beating Chhattisgarh by 243 runs on the final day of the summit clash at the NPR College Ground here on Wednesday.

The Rahul Singh-led side entered day four on firm footing, having already secured the crucial first-innings lead and had set Chhattisgarh an improbable target of 518 in 90 overs.

Chhattisgarh, though, did not go down without a fight. Led by openers Ayush Pandey (117, 134b, 13x4, 3x6) – who slammed a brilliant century – and Shashank Chandrakar (50, 45b, 6x4, 2x6), the team got off to a blazing start. The pair stitched a 100-run partnership off just 103 balls.

Chandrakar made his intentions clear in the second over, taking on pacer Karthikeya Kak, slamming him for two consecutive fours before pulling him over the fine-leg boundary for a maximum.

The right-handed batter did not hold back, preferring to take the aerial route against the spinners to reach his half-century quickly. Pandey would not be left behind, sweeping the tweakers for a flurry of boundaries. He was nimble on his feet and charged down to hit left-arm spinner Aniket Reddy for three sixes down the ground.

However, left-arm spinner Tanay Thyagarajan kept chipping away with wickets (five for 61) even as the runs kept flowing at a brisk pace. Chhattisgarh managed 194 for five in an action-packed 34-over first session.

Post-lunch, Pandey grafted his way to his landmark but could only delay the inevitable.

On a helpful pitch that offered turn and bounce, Hyderabad spinners' persistence paid off and managed to wrap things up just before tea.

Hyderabad skipper Rahul Singh felt the win was a morale-booster for his side ahead of its return to Elite Group for the upcoming Ranji Trophy season.

"We wanted to play aggressive cricket and did it throughout the tournament. We did that in the Plate group last year, which was a bit easy, but we played against some good teams here," said Rahul.

Hyderabad took home ₹three lakh and Chhattisgarh ₹two lakh.

The scores: Hyderabad 417 & 281 bt Chhattisgarh 181 & 274 in 61.1 overs (Ayush Pandey 117, Shashank Chandrakar 50, Tanay Thyagarajan 5/61); **PoM:** Rohit Rayudu; **PoS:** Ayush Pandey.

Sevens wins and a draw for India on day one

Bright start: Divya and Vaishali won their games while Vantika shared the honours. FIDE

CHESS OLYMPIAD

Sports Bureau

India's campaign in the Chess Olympiad got off to a fine start in Budapest on Wednesday.

In the open section, India crushed Morocco 4-0, while in the women's event, it could not get a perfect score against Jamaica, winning 3.5-0.5.

It was Vantika Agrawal's draw that cost India half a point. She was held by Raehanna Brown on the third board. It was no doubt a fine result for Brown, who has a rating of 1910 Elo points – a whopping 460 below Vantika's 2370.

But it was normal service on other boards, with R. Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh and Tania Sachdev all posting wins, against Adani Clarke, Rachel Miller and Gabriella Watson respectively.

The Indian men, seeded second, breezed past Morocco, seeded 93rd.

On the top board, R. Praggnanandhaa defeated Mohamed Tissir, while on the second, Arjun Erigaisi, India's highest-rated player, beat Jacques Elbilia.

On the third and fourth boards, Vidit Gujrathi and P. Harikrishna scored wins over Mehdi Ouakhir and Anas Moayad.

Rohit Rajpal expects an even fight against Sweden in Davis Cup

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

It could easily have been the best chance ever in the history of Davis Cup for India to score over Sweden. However, the non-availability of the leading singles and doubles players has eroded the strength of the Indian team that takes on Sweden in the World Group tennis tie on indoor hard courts in Stockholm on September 14 and 15.

"If we had Sumit Nagal and Yuki Bhambri in the team, we would have had a slight edge over Sweden. Now the tie seems to be quite even," said captain Rohit Rajpal from Stockholm on Wednesday.

"I am looking at the Swedish team practice right now. Rankings are very deceptive.

"Having watched a few Davis Cup ties in the Scandinavian region, I did feel that we would have a better chance with Sumit Nagal in the side. He is a tough grinder and not easy for anyone outside the top-200 to beat him," observed Rajpal.

Raring to go: The Davis Cup team with Rakesh Tiwari, the Charge d'affaires of the Indian Embassy in Stockholm. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Conceding that Ramkumar Ramanathan was quite experienced both in Davis Cup and on the Tour, and had beaten some top players, Rajpal said: "Ram can do a lot with the ball. But his results have not been great in the last two months. And it is a matter of confidence coming into the tie."

Workload

Making the players train for singles, Rajpal said that the load would taper off soon, to keep the players fresh for the match days.

"We have limited choice. We have to repeat players in singles and doubles. Most of our players are competing in doubles in the professional circuit. I am extremely happy for Siddharth Vishwakarma, Aryan Shah and Manas Dhamne," said Rajpal, adding that he felt Aryan and Dhamne were "shaping well" as the future of the team.

The captain pointed out that the indoor hard court, in a large "old beautiful stadium" that has been sold out for the tie, was playing medium pace and low bounce.

"It is both good and bad. We will try to keep the ball low. At the same time, we will not be defensive.

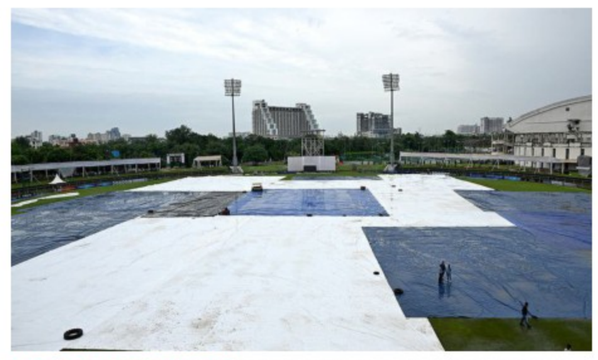
"We do know that it is the aggressive player who takes the match away," he said.

"Bjorn Borg's son Leo has moved to be the No.2 player now. Heard that apart from Borg, other top players of the past – Mats Wilander and Thomas Enqvist – would also be watching the tie. I tend to present it as the home pressure for Sweden. Their doubles team is good, similar to ours," observed Rajpal.

The key

He insisted the tie was wide open and "whoever rises to the occasion" would clinch it.

The tie is expected to be broadcast live on television and efforts are on to get the telecast on Doordarshan as well.



Precautionary measure: The groundstaff covered almost the entire field to avoid further damage to the outfield. R.V. MOORTHY

No action for the third day in a row

AFG VS NZ

Shayan Acharya
GREATER NOIDA

Incessant rain led to the abandonment of the third day's play in the one-off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium on Wednesday.

As it rained heavily the previous night, there were puddles in several parts of the ground, forcing the match officials to call play at 9 a.m. While the New Zealand players stayed back at the hotel, Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott had a look at the surface. He left the venue after a brief conversation with the groundsmen.

In contrast to the first two days, where only the pitch was covered, the groundstaff made it a point to cover almost the entire ground to avoid further damage to the outfield.

After drawing flak over the last few days, the stadium authorities and Afghanistan Cricket Board brought covers from the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Tuesday evening while the Uttar Pradesh CA sent a couple of super soppers to get the ground back in shape. However, things were beyond anyone's control.

Slotting it in: Rodriguez's penalty sealed the deal for Colombia. AP

Argentina and Brazil suffer jolts

Colombia delivers revenge for its Copa America final loss against the World champion, Paraguay emerges victorious against Dorival's men

CONMEBOL WC QUALIFIERS

Agence France-Presse
BARRANQUILLA (COLOMBIA)

World champion Argentina suffered its second defeat in CONMEBOL qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup with a James Rodriguez penalty condemning it to a 1-2 loss to Colombia on Tuesday while a lacklustre Brazil went down to Paraguay 0-1 in Asuncion.

The victory was sweet revenge for a Colombia team which had lost to Argentina in July's final of the Copa America.

Colombia took the lead in the 25th minute when Rodriguez chipped a cross from a short corner to the back post where Yerson Mosquera rose to head home.

With Rodriguez prompting in midfield and Luis Diaz a threat with his pace down the flanks, Colombia was well on top in the opening half against a sluggish Argentina, without the injured Lionel Messi.

But three minutes after the interval, the visitor drew level when a misplaced pass from Rodriguez was pounced upon by Nicolas Gonzalez, who raced away, held off Mosquera and slotted past the advancing Colombia 'keeper Camilo Vargas.

Twelve minutes later, though, Colombia restored its lead in controversial fashion.

Daniel Munoz went down after a lunging challenge from Nicolas Otamendi and after several minutes, the referee was sent to the VAR monitor and awarded a penalty. Rodriguez stepped up to the spot, against penalty specialist Emiliano Martinez and confidently slotted home.

Gomez strikes

It was a first-half goal by Diego Gomez that gave Paraguay a much-deserved win against the five-time world champion.

Dorival Jr's team is fifth in South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup with 10 points, ahead of Venezuela on goal difference. Brazil failed to record a shot on target in the first half and fell behind in the 20th minute when Gomez rifled home from the edge of the box.

The results: Colombia 2 (Mosquera 25, Rodriguez 60-pen) bt Argentina 1 (Gonzalez 48); Ecuador 1 (Valencia 54) bt Peru 0. Chile 1 (Vargas 39) lost to Bolivia 2 (Igaranaz 13, Terceros 45+1); Venezuela 0 drew with Uruguay 0; Paraguay 1 (Gomez 20) bt Brazil 0.

It's Dynamic Force vs. Dabeet

MYSURU: Dynamic Force and Dabeet may fight out the finish of the M.S. Suresh Memorial Trophy (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Sept. 12).

False rails (width about 4.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 SQUANDERER PLATE (Div. II), (1,100m), rated 00 to 25 – 2.00 p.m.: 1. Burst Of Blaze (9) P. Sai Kumar 60, 2. Meghann (5) Abhishek Mhatre 60, 3. Firefinch (10) R. Pradeep 58.5, 4. Chiraag (6) Afsar 58, 5. Epsom Downs (12) Dhanu S 57.5, 6. Gentleman's Word (1) Sai Kiran 57, 7. Mighty Prince (7) Salman Khan 57, 8. Just Blues (2) R. Shiva K 56.5, 9. Dhurandar (3) K. Rajesh 56, 10. The Angel Power (4) Afsar Khan 56, 11. Sweeter Than Honey (8) G. Manikandan 55.5 and 12. D United (11) Angad 53.
1. MEGHANN, 2. CHIRAAG, 3. BURST OF BLAZE

2 SHIVAKASHI PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over – 2.30: 1. Czarevitch (12) Gautam Raj 62.5, 2. D Fighter (7) Jagadeesh 62, 3. Elevado (8) R. Pradeep 61.5, 4. Everly (6) Kiran Rai 60.5, 5. Super Sexy (1) Koshi K 60.5, 6. Square Cut (10) Sai Kiran 59.5, 7. Country's Light (9) M. Prabhakaran 56.5, 8. Raaz (5) K. Rajesh 56.5, 9. Shooting Venus (4) Dhanu S 56.5, 10. Raptor (2) Faiz 52.5, 11. Miracle Honey (11) G. Manikandan 51.5 and 12. Saro Bird (3) Ayaz Khan 51.
1. SQUARE CUT, 2. RAAZ, 3. SUPER SEXY

3 SQUANDERER PLATE (Div. I), (1,100m), rated 00 to 25 – 3.00: 1. Tropical Mist (10) Abhishek Mhatre 62, 2. Benzema (3) Rayan 61.5, 3. Croissantino (5) Ikram Ahmed 61.5, 4. Super Bold (9) Dhanu S 61.5, 5. Sea Diamond (4) P. Sai Kumar 59.5, 6. D Romance (7) Prabhu K 59, 7. Emeraldo (1) R. Pradeep 58.5, 8. Fleet Tactical (8) R. Shiva K 58, 9. Inexhaustible (12) Kiran Rai 58, 10. Rich Strike (2) G. Manikandan 58, 11. Ice Storm (11) M. Rajesh K 57.5 and 12. Celerio (6) Afsar Khan 57.
1. SUPER BOLD, 2. EMERALDO, 3. BENZEMA

4 DENNIS & YVONNE JARVIS MEMORIAL TROPHY (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 – 3.30: 1. Emerald Queen (6) Abhishek Mhatre 62.5, 2. Lauterbrunnen (7) Angad 62, 3. River Of Gold (5) Dhanu S 60.5, 4. Measure Of Time (10) Rayan 60, 5. Natural Hunter (2) K. Rajesh 59.5, 6. Saint Emilion (12) L.A. Rozario 59.5, 7. Analect (3) Kiran Rai 59, 8. Flying Falcon (11) Faiz 59, 9. Gilded Butterfly (1) Md. Mushraf 58.5, 10. She's Unstoppable (8) Ayaz Khan 58.5, 11. Koala (4) S. Brahmmesh 58 and 12. Rising Sun (9) M. Rajesh K 57.
1. MEASURE OF TIME, 2. LAUTERBRUNNEN, 3. EMERALD QUEEN

5 M.S. SURESH MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 – 4-00: 1. His Eminence (10) Gautam Raj 60, 2. Terminator (4) Jagadeesh 60, 3. Ignorance Is Bliss (3) Abhishek Mhatre 57.5, 4. Dynamic Force (1) Sai Kiran 56, 5. HIgh Opinion (6) P. Sai Kumar 55, 6. Lucky Point (8) Dhanu S 55, 7. Dabeet (5) G. Vivek 54.5, 8. Absolute Conquerer (7) R. Pradeep 52, 9. D Fronx (2) Koshi K 51 and 10. Magic Circle (9) M. Chandrashekar 51.
1. DYNAMIC FORCE, 2. DABEET, 3. D FRONX

6 DENNIS & YVONNE JARVIS MEMORIAL TROPHY (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 – 4-30: 1. Southern Power (11) Rayan 60, 2. Mark One (6) Gautam Raj 58.5, 3. Minx (1) M. Rajesh K 58.5, 4. Super Kind (5) Abhishek Mhatre 58, 5. Infiniteposibility (8) Prabhu K 57, 6. Facets Of Life (2) Faiz 56, 7. Jannat (9) M. Prabhakran 56, 8. Defining Power (10) Kiran Rai 55.5, 9. Fashionista (3) K. Rajesh 55.5, 10. Natural Light (4) G. Vivek 55.5, 11. Smile Of Beauty (12) Koshi K 55.5 and 12. Knotty Methods (7) R. Girish 53.5.
1. SMILE OF BEAUTY, 2. SUPER KIND, 3. SOUTHERN POWER

7 DENNIS & YVONNE JARVIS MEMORIAL TROPHY (Div. III), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 – 5-00: 1. Island Lass (8) Faiz 60, 2. Noble Pursuit (1) S. Brahmmesh 60, 3. Run Happy Run (10) S. Imran 60, 4. Vijaya Brave (4) Angad 60, 5. Sea God (11) Jagadeesh 59, 6. Thalaivaa (9) Md. Sameer 59, 7. Aaradhana (7) R. Pradeep 58.5, 8. Alluring Beauty (5) Md. Imran Ashraf 58.5, 9. Chotipari (6) Sai Kiran 58.5, 10. Armament (2) Gautam Raj 58, 11. Halchemeny (12) M. Rajesh K 58 and 12. Rumour Lady (3) Dhanu S 58.
1. CHOTIPARI, 2. THALAIVAA, 3. SEA GOD

Day's best: **CHOTIPARI**

Double: **MEGHANN – SQUARE CUT**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

INBRIEF

Emotional and happiest playing for India: Shafali

Opener Shafali Verma said playing for India was an "emotional and happiest feeling". "It is a big thing for me from where I have come... to play for the country is a big honour for me. Wearing the India jersey is quite emotional and the happiest feeling as well. Right now, I am thinking about how good I can do for my team."

Dronacharya award-winning TT coach Pushilal passes away

Dronacharya award winning table tennis coach Jayanta Pushilal passed away in Kolkata on Tuesday night. He was 63. Pushilal coached top paddlers like Mouma Das, Arup Basak, Ambika Radhika Suresh and Prapti Sen.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Harshil Dharmani stars for KSCA Colts

Harshil Dharmani (118) starred for KSCA Colts against Dr. DY Patil CA on the third day of the KSCA-Dr. Capt. Thimmappiah memorial tournament match at Mysuru.

The scores: Madhya Pradesh CA 187 and 260/6 in 80 overs (Shubham Sharma 54, Rishabh Chouhan 36, Harpreet Singh 81 n.o., Aryan Pandey 35, Arshad Khan 30 n.o.) vs KSCA XI 201.

Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh 467 and 194/7 in 45.1 overs (Bhupen Lalwani 34, Sanidhya Hurkat 34, Aditya Singh 32, Sanjeet Desai 25, Pawan Parnate 35) vs. Goa CA 261 in 83.1 overs (Abhinav Tejrana 51, Deepraj Gaonkar 53, Darshan Mishal 35, Sumit Ruikar 6/86, Shubham Agarwal 3/86).

Vidarbha CA 331 286/7 in 72 overs (Siddhesh Wath 74, Aman Mokhade 100, Akshay Karnewar 65 n.o., Paras Gurbax 3/78) vs. KSCA President's XI 216 in 74.2 overs (Sujay Sateri 59, Nachiket Bhute 5/43, Shubham Kapse 3/57).

Tamil Nadu CA 165 and 145 in 30 overs (Karthick Manikandan 51, Rajvardhan Hangargekar 3/50, Hitesh Walunj 3/24) lost to Maharashtra CA 353.

KSCA Secretary's XI 181 and 296 in 76.1 overs (Shreyas Gopal 50, Shikhar Shetty 32 n.o.,, Y. Sandeep 3/22) vs. Andhra CA 188 and 268/8 in 71 overs (Maheep Kumar 85, Revanth Reddy 35, Aswin Hebbar 80 n.o., Shikhar Shetty 4/34).

Mumbai CA 476 vs. Gujarat Cricket Association 187 in 67.3 overs (Saral Prajapatu 31, Shashank Attarde 4/74, Atharva Ankolekar 3/30) and 169/6 in 60 overs (Lazya Kochar 69, Ahaan Podar 35).

At Mysuru: Odisha CA 468 in 129 overs (Shantanu Mishra 43, Govinda Poddar 195, Suryakant Pradhan 29 n.o., Babasafi Pathan 5/108) vs. Baroda CA 218/5 in 78 overs (Kedar Devdhar 68, Sukirt Pandey 81 n.o.).

Dr. DY Patil CA 452 in 106.3 overs (Karshkothari 61 n.o., Ishan Afridi 29, Shubhang Hegde 5/133) vs. KSCA Colts 298/6 in 83 overs (S.U. Karthik 57, Harshil Dharmani 118, Srujan Nandan 49, P. Dhruv 26 n.o.).

The Sports School enters semifinals

Athreya Bhat (132) and Tanshh Krishna (116) powered The Sports School past Triveni Memorial Educational Trust in the quarterfinal of the K.M. Ramprasad Shield under-16 Division II inter-school tournament here.

The scores: Quarterfinals: Vidyaniketan PS (Ullal) 144 in 43.5 overs (Aaryan Nagesh 3/25) lost to Presidency School (RT Nagar) 145/1 in 17.5 overs (Eshanth Royal 51, Niranjan Ashok 65 n.o.).

The Sports School 350 in 50 overs (Athreya Bhat 132, Tanshh Krishna 116, Sachin Gowda 4/24) bt Triveni Memorial Educational Trust 82 in 26.1 overs (Tanshh Krishna 3/23).

Kensri School 136 in 43.5 overs (Mukul Gowda 49) lost to Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya 139/1 in 20.4 overs (S. Adhithyan 68 n.o., N.S. Shaurya 45 n.o.).

School Vivekananda 62 in 23.3 overs (Jinesh Chhajer 3/24, Preet Jain 3/11, C. Nithin 3/11) lost to Carmel HS 63/3 in 16.3 overs (V. Nishanth 38).

LIVE TELECAST

Tennis: Davis Cup, Group stage, final, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 a.m.
Afghanistan vs New Zealand: Only Test, day 4, Eurosport (SD & HD) & FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

Hockey: Asian Champions Trophy, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11 a.m.; South Korea vs India, 1.15 p.m. & 3.30 p.m.

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